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# STARS AND STRIPES®

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Volume 77, No. 215 ©SS 2019

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

## Poland push

US will deploy hundreds more troops to boost presence in region  
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**Battle Group Poland  
kicks off Operation  
Reider Thunder  
earlier this month in  
northeast Poland.**

ANTONIO GUZMAN/Courtesy  
of the Tennessee Army  
National Guard

## Survey finds toxic base housing conditions

By ALEX HORTON  
The Washington Post

For thousands of servicemembers and their families, military housing is decrepit, dangerous and inescapable, according to survey results released Wednesday by an armed services advisory organization.

The grievances paint a picture of squalid conditions at bases across the United States, including black mold, lead, infestations of vermin, flooding, radon and faulty wiring.

Tenants say their complaints have been met with resistance, and in some cases threats from property management companies and commanders to silence them. Some families say their children have been sickened by toxic living conditions but feel there is no recourse; respondents suggested they cannot withhold rent payments as leverage for improvements.

The survey was conducted by the Military Family Advisory Network after a 2018 Reuters investigation sparked congressional inquiries. In the seven days the survey was available, the organization said it received a cascade of more than 16,000 respondents eager to express simmering frustrations.

SEE CONDITIONS ON PAGE 9

## Army civilian in Landstuhl says he 'fought like hell' during deadly home invasion

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

The 41-year-old former Air Force major was reading a Sunday night bedtime story to his 5-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter when the doorbell rang.

Nighttime visitors were unheard of for the American family, who moved from Albuquerque, N.M., to Landstuhl, Germany,

only four months ago and were still getting to know people. It was dark downstairs and he couldn't see who was at the door, but he heard a muffled voice.

"Stupidly, I opened the door," said the American, who contacted Stars and Stripes to describe his version of events and asked not to be identified by name for safety reasons. "They all rushed me."

In an instant, the American said he was in

a fight for his and his family's lives. The confrontation lasted less than 10 minutes. One of the home invaders would later die of stab wounds. Now, the family of five is in protective custody, worried about possible recriminations from the attackers, some of whom are on the loose.

Meanwhile, the former major, who now works as an Army civilian employee, is being

SEE INVASION ON PAGE 7

**The confrontation lasted less than 10 minutes. One of the home invaders would later die of stab wounds. Now, the family of five is in protective custody.**

# MILITARY

## US set for larger military presence across Poland

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The U.S. will deploy hundreds more troops to Poland in a push to further boost its military presence in a region where the Pentagon already has thousands of servicemembers conducting operations, America's top diplomat in the country said.

U.S. Ambassador to Poland George Mombacher said the increase will be "significant."

"It passes the ... hundreds mark," Mombacher told the Financial Times on Wednesday.

Mombacher stopped short of saying whether the move involves setting up a permanent military base in the country, but she suggested future deployments will be rotational. Warsaw has lobbied for a permanent U.S. base and more ground troops, offering \$2 billion to help fund the idea.

The Pentagon wants a "more agile, more rotating, rather than where you have physical hospitals and homes and you bring your families," Mombacher told the newspaper. "But in terms of a presence that is undeniable and a large number of American troops here, that's a given. And I think [the Poles are] going to get most of what they want."

The U.S. already has roughly 4,000 troops in Poland. In addition to an armored brigade on rotation, infantrymen guard Poland's border with the Russian enclave of Kaliningrad and a U.S.



ARTURO GUZMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**Members of NATO's Enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Poland — composed of U.S., U.K., Croatian and Romanian troops who serve with the Polish 15th Mechanized Brigade — kick off Operation Raider Thunder, a live-fire exercise, on Feb. 5.**

Air Force detachment operates in Lask. The Navy also has a contingent of sailors in the northern Polish town of Redzikow, where work continues on a missile defense site that integrates with systems in Romania and at sea.

This week, Vice President Mike Pence is in Warsaw for a summit on security in the Middle East. During his visit he was expected to discuss U.S. military relations with Poland and security in Europe. Meanwhile, acting Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan was in Brussels on Wednesday for talks with NATO defense ministers.

Among the topics being reviewed are efforts to bolster alliance defenses in Europe amid concerns about a more aggressive Russia.

Allies also were expected to discuss Washington's decision to withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty banning all ground-launched intermediate-range cruise and ballistic missiles. The U.S. and NATO claim Russia is in violation of the treaty for several years because of a new missile system, something Moscow denies.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver

## US: Ex-airman who defected to Iran revealed secret data

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A former U.S. Air Force counterintelligence specialist who defected to Iran has been charged with revealing classified information to the Tehran government, including the code name and secret mission of a Pentagon program.

The Justice Department said Wednesday that Monica Elfriede Witt, 39, defected in 2013 after attending a conference in Iran aimed at "condemning American moral standards." She is currently at large, along with four Iranian hackers who, prosecutors say, used information she provided to target her former colleagues in the U.S. intelligence community.

The four Iranians were acting on behalf of the government-linked Iranian Revolutionary Guard, prosecutors said. They also remain at large; arrest warrants have been issued for them.

Prosecutors said Witt, who left the Air Force in 2008 and later became a Defense Department contractor, disclosed to Iran the code name and classified mission of a Pentagon special access program. No further details were immediately released. She also researched private information about colleagues with whom she had worked and created what the government says were "target packages" for use by the Iranian government. They declined to say to what extent these disclosures compromised U.S. intelligence operations targeting Iran.

The indictment suggested that Iran had reached out to her at least as far back as 2012. That year, an unidentified person contacted her and remarked that she was well-trained. It said she replied: "Well, I loved the work,

and I am endeavoring to put the training I received to good use instead of evil. Thanks for giving me the opportunity," according to the indictment.

Using a typed smiley-face, she later told the same, unnamed person, "If all else fails, I just may go public with a program and do like Snowden." That's a reference

to Edward Snowden, a former NSA contractor who leaked classified U.S. information.

Witt was working as a contractor in 2012 when she was offered an

all-expenses-paid invitation to a "Hollywoodism" conference that was sponsored by the Iranian government and that promoted anti-Western propaganda, according to the Justice Department. She returned to the same conference the following year, when she was given housing and computer equipment and began working for the Iranian government.

"Our intelligence professionals swear an oath to protect our country, and we trust them to uphold their oath. With good reason," said Assistant Attorney General John Demers, head of the Justice Department's national security division. "But every great while, one of these trusted people fails us."

Jay Tabb, the FBI's top national security official, said the FBI had warned Witt that she was a vulnerable target for recruitment by Iranian intelligence but that Witt had ignored those warnings.



Witt

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## MILITARY

# Female Viper demo team chief relieved of command

By COREY DICKSTEIN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Air Force Capt. Zoe Kotnik, the first female F-16 pilot to lead the service's Viper demonstration team, was relieved of command Monday, just two weeks after taking the team's reins, officials said Tuesday.

Col. Derek O'Malley, the commander of the 20th Fighter Wing, removed Kotnik from her position after losing confidence in her ability to lead and command the demonstration team, which showcases the newest model of F-16V fighter jets at airshows throughout the country, according to an Air Combat Command statement.

O'Malley attempted to explain his decision in a social media post on the Shaw Air Force Base's Facebook page.

"We have thousands of airmen

across our Air Force serving our country, and not one of them is perfect," he wrote. "As good people, like Capt. Kotnik make mistakes, I want them to have the opportunity to learn from them without being under public scrutiny, and to continue to be a part of this great service. They'll be better for the experience, and in turn, we'll be better as an Air Force."

O'Malley acknowledged Kotnik's removal would be tough on her, but he said she was "surrounded by wingmen [who] will help her every step of the way."

Capt. Alannah Staver, a spokeswoman for the 20th Fighter Wing, which is based at Shaw, in South Carolina, declined to provide additional information about Kotnik's removal.

She has been replaced by Maj. Josh Waters, who previously commanded the demonstration team, Staver said. The team's

first scheduled performance for 2019 is March 30 and 31 at Naval Air Station Key West in Florida.

"The Viper demonstration team is working to minimize impacts on scheduled performances and looks forward to inspiring crowds around the country during their upcoming season," Staver said.

Kotnik's selection to lead the Viper team on Jan. 29 garnered significant attention on social media and in the news, as the Air Force featured her in comic book-style imagery, evoking advertising for the upcoming movie "Captain Marvel." The film is set to premiere March 8 and features Brie Larson in the role of the titular superhero, whose alter ego Carol Danvers is an Air Force F-16 pilot.

Kotnik — call sign SIS — is a 2011 Air Force Academy graduate who has flown F-16s with the 35th Fighter Squadron at Kunsan Air Base in South Korea and



KATHRYN R.C. REAVES/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**U.S. Air Force Capt. Zoe Kotnik smiles after a certification flight at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Va., on Jan. 29.**

the 55th Fighter Squadron at Shaw, according to her official biography.

She has more than 1,000 flying hours and has recently flown missions supporting Operation Noble Eagle — the air defense mission to prevent another 9/11 terrorist attack — and served as an instructor pilot training new F-16 wingmen.

O'Malley wrote he was excited for the demo team to have its first female commander, but he was

confident that Kotnik would learn from her undiscovered misstep.

"I'm also just as excited about the many other females [who] are serving with great distinction across our Air Force," the colonel wrote. "I'm proud to serve with them, and I'm inspired by them. Even as I speak, another female pilot from the 20th Fighter Wing is flying combat missions in the Middle East."

dickstein.corey@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

## US fighter jets to participate in British aircraft carrier's first operational mission

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

The HMS Queen Elizabeth, the United Kingdom's newest aircraft carrier, will make its debut operational mission this year with a complement of U.S. fighter jets, British Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson announced this week.

The Queen Elizabeth will carry both British and American F-35 Lightning II fighter jets on upcoming patrols, Williamson said during a speech Monday at the Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies.

Williamson said the mission will include a patrol through the Pacific Ocean, where the U.S. has been conducting freedom-of-navigation operations within 12 nautical miles of the Spratly and Paracel island groups in the South China Sea, both claimed by China.

"The first operational mission of HMS Queen Elizabeth will include the Mediterranean, Middle East and the Pacific — making Global Britain a reality," Williamson said, according to the U.K. Ministry of Defense.

In January, the U.S. and British navies conducted their first joint military exercise in the South China Sea since Beijing began militarizing islands and reefs there. The destroyer USS McCampbell and the frigate HMS Argyll worked together Jan. 11-16, 7th Fleet officials said at the time.

The navies "conducted communication drills, division tactics and a personnel exchange designed to address common maritime security priorities, enhance interoperability and develop relationships that will benefit both navies for many years to come," according



BRITANNY MACHINICK/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**A U.S. F-35 fighter hovers over the HMS Queen Elizabeth in November during integration trials aboard the carrier. It will carry both U.S. and British fighter jets in its first operational mission.**

to a 7th Fleet statement.

Interoperability refers to a country's ability to use another military's equipment and training methods.

The Navy, the Royal Navy and the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force also worked together on an anti-submarine warfare exercise Dec. 21-22 in the Pacific.

Britain has shown increased interest in the Pacific over the past year, conducting a freedom-of-navigation operation in the region in August when the amphibious assault ship HMS Albion sailed near the Paracel island chain, irking China. It was the first time for the U.K. to complete such a mission in the South China Sea in recent history.

Williamson during his speech Monday also spoke about the importance of the U.K.'s alliance with the United States.

"Our relationship with the United States will continue to be one of the closest," Williamson said, according to the institute.

"There are also opportunities for Britain to lead and bring alliances together. We should look at doing that increasingly in the years ahead."

After Williamson's speech, acting U.S. Secretary of Defense Pat Shanahan in a Twitter post said Williamson has "determined leadership and lucid vision," and his speech highlighted Britain's "global presence, more mass and increased lethality."

"The U.K.'s global leadership, underpinned by a capable military, makes the world safer for the US and our allies," Shanahan tweeted. "I look forward to discussing with Gavin Williamson this vision, our strong U.K.-U.S. relationship, and our firm commitment to NATO, this week at the NATO Defense Minister's meetings."

Information about when the HMS Queen Elizabeth will deploy was not available Wednesday.

doorbos.caitlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

## South Korea disputes Trump suggestion on defense cost-sharing

By KIM GAMEL  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea pushed back Wednesday against a new suggestion by President Donald Trump that the U.S. ally should pay more to maintain thousands of American troops on the divided peninsula.

Trump said Tuesday during a Cabinet meeting that Seoul had agreed to pay \$500 million more in cost-sharing talks.

"Five-hundred million, with a couple of phone calls," he said, according to a White House transcript.

"I said, 'Why didn't you do this before?'" he added. "They said, 'Nobody asked.' So — it's got to go up. It's got to go up."

The figure he cited wasn't the same as the numbers provided by officials announcing a new preliminary contract, which was signed by senior diplomats Sunday in Seoul.

That deal calls for Seoul to pay \$920 million this year, about \$74 million more than the annual sum paid as part of the previous five-year agreement, which expired on Dec. 31.

The so-called Special Measures Agreement still needs to be ratified by South Korea's National Assembly, although officials expressed confidence it would be approved.

The deal was reached after months of frantic negotiations over Trump's reported demand that the South more than double

its contribution.

The U.S. administration accepted the lower figure but insisted the contract would last only one year, so negotiators will have to start fresh talks soon.

South Korea's presidential office dismissed concern that Trump's comments may signal another increase is imminent.

The one-year deal came with an option to extend it for another year if both sides agree to do so, spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said Wednesday when asked about Trump's remarks.

"So both sides may review whether an increase is necessary, or may decide to maintain the current level," he told reporters.

"I hope you guys don't treat this issue of an increase as an established fact."

The United States and South Korea have been allies since the 1950-53 Korean War, which ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

The dispute over cost-sharing has been an irritant between the two countries at a sensitive time in diplomacy aimed at persuading North Korea to abandon its nuclear weapons.

Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are scheduled to hold their second summit to discuss the issue on Feb. 27-28 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.  
kgamel@gmail.com  
Twitter: @kimgame1



## PACIFIC

# Lasers aimed at 2 cargo airplanes at Yokota

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
Stars and Stripes

Japanese police have opened an investigation after someone pointed a laser at two Yokota-based C-130J cargo aircraft Monday evening.

The incidents occurred near Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo around 6:30 p.m., a Fussa Police Department spokesman said Wednesday.

A green laser targeted the Super Hercules from the ground somewhere in the Tokyo town of Mizuho, according to the Mainichi newspaper. It did not cause any damage or injuries and the aircraft did not change course.

The incidents occurred during routine training missions and lasted less than 10 seconds, 374th Airlift Wing spokesman Senior Master Sgt. Greg Bluethmann wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes.

Police are investigating the incident and may bring forcible obstruction of business charges, the police spokesman said.



YASUO OSAKABE/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**C-130J pilots approach Yokota Air Base, Japan, last year. Japanese police are investigating after someone pointed a laser at two Yokota-based cargo planes Monday evening.**

"Lasing incidents can be dangerous as they can impair the vision of pilots, potentially affecting their ability to fly the aircraft safely," Bluethmann wrote. "We take these incidents seriously as the safety of both our aircrews and the community is a top priority."

The issue of lasers adversely affecting air travel in Japan is nothing new. The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force reported 80 cases in which lights were beamed at Self-Defense Force and U.S. military aircraft between 2013 and December 2015.

The last six months of 2015 saw five incidents in which lasers targeted Marine Corps aircraft on Okinawa. A 56-year-old local man was arrested, charged and fined.

In November 2016, a Kanagawa prefecture man was arrested for pointing a green laser at a low-flying A190 patrol plane.

"There have been approximately 10 lasing incidents involving 374th Airlift Wing aircraft since July 2018," Bluethmann wrote. "When a lasing incident occurs, the base reports the incident to local police and shares as much information as possible to aid their investigation."

Bluethmann added that Yokota leadership has been working with North Kanto Defense Bureau to "increase public awareness about how dangerous this activity can be for both aircrews and people on the ground."

burke.matt@stripes.com  
ichihashi.aya@stripes.com

# Alaska-based helo repairman hurt at home dies in Wash.

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

An Army helicopter repairman died Monday of injuries he sustained a week earlier at his home at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, the Army said.

Sgt. Brian Peter Sawyer, 33, assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment at Wainwright, died at Madigan Army Medical Center, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., where he had been transferred because of the severity of his injuries, the Army said in a statement Tuesday.

He was injured at his on-base residence on Feb. 3 and initially treated at Bassett Army Community Hospital on Fort Wainwright, the statement said.

The Army did not release details on the nature of the injuries. The cause of death is under investigation by the Army Criminal Investigation Command, the statement said.

"The Flying Dragon family grieves together today at the loss of one of our own," Lt. Col. Jorge Rosario, 1-52nd Aviation commander, said in the statement.

Sawyer was originally from New Port Richey, Fla., and joined the Army in September 2010. He served at Fort Jackson, S.C.; Fort Eustis, Va.; Katterbach Army Airfield, Ansbach, Germany; and Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. He arrived at Fort Wainwright in November 2016.

He deployed to Afghanistan from May through September 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @WyattWOlson



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## MILITARY

# Judge airs concerns in Navy SEAL's murder case

By JULIE WATSON  
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A military judge on Tuesday asked the Navy to address claims that allegations from a potential government witness were being leaked to the media in the case of a SEAL charged with murder in the 2017 death of an Iraqi war prisoner.

The judge, Capt. Aaron Rugh, said the leaks are "disconcerting" because violating a protective order could taint the jury, affect testimony and affect whether Special Operations Chief Edward Gallagher, 39, receives a fair trial. He said the government has "all the power to investigate."

The Navy says it is investigating and has limited the number of people who have access to the information to stop the leaks.

Defense attorney Phil Stackhouse said the Navy Times received a letter from an

attorney representing one of the SEALs expected to testify for the prosecution that detailed his potential testimony. The report came around the same time Stackhouse was given the letter by the prosecution.

The Navy Times reported over the weekend that an officer in Gallagher's chain of command has said Gallagher called in "false target coordinates to engage a mosque" during their 2017 deployment in Iraq, tried to start unnecessary firefights with insurgents and was so mentally unstable the officer feared the platoon was at risk.

A second letter from another attorney representing a SEAL was also obtained by the Navy Times. The attorney said the SEAL described how Gallagher threatened former members of the SEAL team and their families.

Military prosecutors have charged Gallagher with premeditated murder in the death

of the teenage Islamic State fighter who was handed over to the SEAL team after he was wounded by Iraqi armed forces. They say he stabbed the teen in the neck with a hunting knife.

Gallagher also faces charges in the shooting of two civilians and has been accused of opening fire on crowds during his deployment.

According to the prosecution, members of his SEAL team have said Gallagher went off the rails during his eighth deployment, using questionable tactics, completing a re-enlistment ceremony near the body of the dead prisoner and stealing protein bars and other items from their care packages.

Gallagher has pleaded not guilty to all the charges.

Gallagher's supervisor has been charged for failing to report the alleged murder and holding Gallagher's re-enlistment ceremony

with the corpse. His attorney says he denies the allegations.

The Navy Times reported it also has obtained copies of federal search warrants showing investigators are tracking the electronic communication of the SEAL community and have seized several of their cellphones.

Stackhouse said other material including the charge sheet was also leaked to the media before prosecutors provided it to the defense.

The judge also expressed concern that Gallagher is being mistreated in the brig after his attorneys told the court he was not allowed to shower for days, was denied a request to get his hair cut and has had his medical appointments canceled.

The Navy said it would resolve any problems with the brig.

The trial is set to begin Feb. 20.

## 3 soldiers injured during Golden Knight training operation

By ROSE L. THAYER  
Stars and Stripes

Three soldiers from the Army's parachute demonstration team are in a Miami hospital following a nighttime training accident at Homestead Air Reserve Base in Homestead, Fla., according to a news release from the Army Re-

cruiting Command. The incident occurred about 4 a.m. Tuesday.

The injured soldiers are all members of the U.S. Army Parachute Team, known as the Golden Knights, and were participating in a routine night training operation, the news release stated.

The three injured soldiers were taken by air rescue to the Ryder

Trauma Center at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami, CBS Miami reported.

Kelli Bland, a spokeswoman for the recruiting command, said that as of Tuesday afternoon all three soldiers remained hospitalized, with two of them in critical condition and one in serious condition.

The incident is under investiga-

tion, according to the Army.

The Golden Knights is an aerial demonstration team of about 95 men and women, according to the team's website. It includes four parachute units, an aviation unit and a headquarters, all based out of Fort Bragg, N.C.

The demonstration teams perform at more than 100 events each

year, the website stated. The tandem section is known for taking soldiers, celebrities and heads of state on jumps, and the competition section takes part in national and international skydiving events.

The team visits Homestead in the winter to conduct training.

thayer.rose@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Rose\_Lori

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THE NEW SANNO

## MILITARY

# Admiral defends Navy after disasters at sea

By DAN LAMOTHE  
The Washington Post

The top U.S. military official in the Pacific defended the Navy on Tuesday concerning two collisions at sea that combined killed 17 sailors, saying that "the fact of the matter is 28-odd other ships weren't having collisions."

The comments by Adm. Phil Davidson came during questioning at a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing after he said the Navy's senior leadership feels "an immense amount of accountability" for disasters involving the USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain. The ships collided with commercial vessels about two months apart in the summer of 2017, with the sailors drowning inside flooded compartments.

Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, asked Davidson, who oversaw the Navy's investigation of the

disasters, about the recent publication of investigative reports by ProPublica in which former senior defense officials said Navy leaders had ignored pleas for help to make sure sailors were appropriately trained and ships were well-maintained. The senator appeared to take exception to Davidson's remarks.

"Airplanes are landing all over America, and just because they aren't all crashing doesn't mean they don't need a high level of maintenance," King said. "To tell me that isn't very convincing."

"I think it had been 40 years since we've had collisions of this nature? Are you saying that there were failures that led to these collisions because there were 280 ships that didn't have collisions? Isn't that the standard? No collisions?"

King called the collisions "avoidable tragedies" and asked

for specific data about the certification of sailors to deploy, maintenance aboard ships, training and staffing levels.

Davidson said the suggestion that there isn't transparency about the Navy's readiness "is appalling," and that he testified before Congress in 2016 about what it took to keep deploying under difficult circumstances. The admiral performed a review that led to 58 recommendations, Davidson said, "and the Navy is moving out on those recommendations" to improve the situation.

Davidson also repeated a frequent warning from Pentagon officials that China continues to erode the U.S. military advantage in the Pacific region. The Pentagon's financial investments last year helped, he said, but more is necessary in each of the next two budgets, he said.

"I don't want to give the im-

pression that last year's budget is necessarily putting us on the track to regain that advantage," he said.

One new option on the table could be intermediate ballistic missiles. The Trump administration announced this month that it will withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty with Russia, allowing the United States to pursue arms that it says China and Russia already are pursuing.

Davidson said about 95 percent of the ballistic missiles built by China, which was not a party to the treaty, would violate it. He said a similar capability would make the U.S. military "more viable in any warfare scenario and present a much greater challenge for our adversaries to threaten."

Davidson, under questioning from Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., said it will be necessary for those

missiles to be mobile on land, meaning they likely would be fired from some sort of vehicle on wheels.

"In this day and age, if it is fixed on the planet, it is dead," Davidson said. "You don't even need space assets to support that. The globe has been mapped, and a ballistic missile can find its way there based on its own internal targeting. We would have to have mobility in those systems."

The exchange came at a hearing at which Army Gen. Robert Abrams, the top commander of U.S. Forces Korea, also appeared. He told committee members that while U.S. officials continue to speak with North Korean officials about eliminating their nuclear weapons program, "little to no verifiable change has occurred in North Korea's military capabilities."

## Searchers find wreckage of WWII-era carrier USS Hornet

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

Searchers have found the wreck of the World War II-era aircraft carrier USS Hornet, which played a role in the famed Doolittle Raid on Tokyo and the pivotal Battle of Midway.

The wreckage was discovered in late January by the crew of the research vessel Petrel more than 3 miles beneath the surface of waters near the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific Ocean where it sank in October 1942.

"We had the Hornet on our list of WWII warships that we wanted to locate because of its place in history as a (capital) carrier that saw many pivotal moments in naval battles," Robert Kraft — director of subsea operations for Vulcan Inc., the private company overseeing the Petrel's excursions — said in a statement.

The Petrel's continuing search missions are among the many activities funded by Paul Allen, a co-founder of Microsoft who died in October.

"Paul Allen was particularly interested in aircraft carriers, so this was a discovery that honors his memory," Kraft said.

The ship appears well-preserved in published photographs, among them one of the ship's 5-inch guns, a blast-hole in the hull and an International Harvester brand aircraft tug sitting upright on a deck plate as though awaiting its next task.

The Hornet sank during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands after a devastating assault from Japanese dive-bombers, torpedo planes and two destroyers.

One hundred-forty sailors of a crew of almost 2,200 died in the attack.

The 10-person expedition team on the 250-foot research boat found the Hornet's position about 17,500 feet below the surface by "piecing together data from national and naval archives that



Photos courtesy of the Paul G. Allen estate

**An International Harvester brand aircraft tug sits upright on a deck of the World War II carrier USS Hornet, which was discovered and photographed last month by a search team on the vessel Petrel.**



included official deck logs and action reports from both ships engaged in the battle," the statement said.

"Positions and sightings from nine other U.S. warships in the area were plotted on a chart to generate the starting point for the search grid," it said.

"In the case of the Hornet, she was discovered on the first dive mission of the Petrel's autonomous underwater vehicle and confirmed by video footage from the remotely operated vehicle, both pieces of equipment rated to dive down to [37 miles]."

While the Doolittle Raid of

Florida to take flight in only 300 feet, which was the length of the flight deck on the USS Hornet.

They boarded the carrier in San Francisco, and it set sail for the Western Pacific on April 2, 1942. All 16 aircraft were lost after the raid on April 18, 1942; three crew members were killed and eight fell into the hands of the Japanese.

By late April 1942 the Hornet was on another mission, heading toward Australia to join the Battle of the Coral Sea, which ended before the ship arrived.

About a month later, in early June 1942, the Hornet, along with the carriers Yorktown and Enterprise, were among the ships that defeated an attacking fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy near Midway Atoll, about 1,300 miles northwest of Hawaii.

The Hornet's planes helped sink the heavy cruiser Mikuma, and the decisive battle ended with the Hornet's attack on the heavy cruiser Mogami, which was left crippled and burning.

The Hornet's end came on Oct. 27, 1942, during a sustained attack by Japanese planes and destroyers during the Battle of the Santa Cruz Islands, a short but fierce clash at sea.

Within a span of 15 minutes, the Hornet was slammed by three bombs from dive bombers, one of which crashed into the carrier after being hit. Torpedo planes made two direct hits, taking out most of the ship's electrical systems and engines. Another dive bomber crashed into the bow.

With power out, the Hornet was unable to launch or land planes. Vice Adm. William Halsey ordered that it be abandoned and scuttled, but the American ships were forced to leave before completing the task.

Two Japanese destroyers launched torpedoes that finally sank the Hornet.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com  
Twitter: @WyattOlson

**Above: A 5-inch gun on the wreck of the USS Hornet appears well-preserved. Left: The wreckage was discovered in late January under 3 miles of water near the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific Ocean.**

April 1942 on the Japan mainland was of little tactical significance, it did serve as a huge boost to American morale to a country still stinging from the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941.

The crews of 16 B-25B bombers practiced at Eglin Field in

# MILITARY

## Trump may visit soldier wounded in Syria

By CHAD GARLAND  
Stars and Stripes

One of the three American troops wounded in a deadly bombing in Syria last month didn't get to meet President Donald Trump during a hospital visit, but he did send him a message and may soon get a second chance at a meeting.



Turnbull

Lord, Mich., was wounded in a Jan. 16 blast in the town of Manbij that left four Americans and dozens of others dead. The flu forced him to cancel a planned visit with Trump at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center on Feb. 8, when the president came for his annual physical, the soldier's wife said.

An aide shared with Trump a brief note Turnbull had written on a whiteboard — the four-letter initials for Trump's campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again" — Turnbull's wife said in a Facebook post published the

day of the visit. The president responded approvingly.

"He laughed, and said 'I like this guy!'" wrote Samantha Turnbull.

The following day, Trump also tweeted about the "outstanding" troops he met on his visit to the hospital.

"It was great meeting some of our outstanding young military personnel who were wounded in both Syria and Afghanistan," Trump wrote. "Their wounds are deep but their spirit is sooo high. They will recover & be back very soon. America loves them. Walter Reed Hospital is AMAZING — Thank you all!"

Last month's blast killed a Special Forces soldier, a Navy linguist, a former Navy SEAL from the Defense Intelligence Agency and a U.S. contractor. Though the Pentagon declined to identify the three wounded troops who survived, Turnbull's family named him in the media and online.

Among his injuries were many shrapnel wounds, a broken pelvis and a fractured skull, family and friends said on social media. After being evacuated to Baghdad and Germany, he is recovering at Walter Reed and faces years of surgery for facial reconstruction. His wife has said on Facebook

that there are stitches where his right eye was removed and that she's praying for a miracle with his left eye.

Samantha Turnbull declined to discuss her husband's condition or the president's visit with Stars and Stripes, but she has reported on his progress over the past few weeks in a series of largely positive Facebook posts asking for prayers and sharing glimpses of hope in his recovery. Despite his serious wounds, he's "the same old Jon," she posted.

Two other servicemembers wounded in the blast and recovering at the hospital have told her much about the events of that day, she said in a January post, calling them "literally my definition of super heroes" for helping save her husband's life.

"How anyone survived this, I just don't understand," she wrote. "My heart aches, especially for them, that they had to be there, and have to go through this as well."

Last week, Scott A. Wirtz, the former Navy SEAL killed in the attack, was buried near St. Louis, and the slain Navy linguist, Chief Petty Officer Shannon M. Kent, was memorialized Friday at a ceremony in Annapolis, where she was posthumously promoted

to senior chief. Earlier this week, the body of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jonathan R. Farmer, the Green Beret killed in the blast, was returned home to Florida.

Trump has called for the withdrawal of some 2,000 U.S. troops from Syria, and U.S. military officials have reportedly begun preparations to pull out in the coming weeks. The plan has drawn criticism from both Republican and Democrat lawmakers and led to the resignation of Defense Secretary Jim Mattis.

In a photo Samantha Turnbull shared after Trump's hospital visit, her husband had written a note asking if anyone had his phone number "or uncle Mattis (sic)," apparently referring to the former defense secretary.

Though the Turnbulls had to cancel their visit with the president, one of the others wounded in the Manbij attack met with Trump and told him Jon Turnbull was his biggest supporter among the trio, her post said.

Trump now insists on seeing him, Samantha Turnbull said, and an aide assured her a visit is "in the works." Trump also sent over an aide to give Jon Turnbull a presidential coin, making him smile, she said.

"The smile on Jon's face ... was



Samantha Turnbull, Facebook

**This photo posted on Facebook appears to show Army Capt. Jon Turnbull's hand interlocked with his wife Samantha's while he recovers from his injuries at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.**

the greatest thing I have seen in a long time," she wrote. "A President who cares about his troops ... is an amazing and wonderful thing."

garland.chad@stripes.com  
Twitter: @chadgarland

## Invasion: American is under investigation for excessive use of force

### FROM FRONT PAGE

investigated by German prosecutors over whether he used excessive force in the fight.

"I am being investigated, so charges are still an option," said the American, who has hired a German defense attorney over concerns that he could be in legal trouble.

In Germany, a conviction for causing death by bodily harm typically carries a prison term of no less than three years. German officials typically weigh whether force used was necessary for self-defense when deciding whether to prosecute.

But while the American is anxious about the outcome of the probe, he said the circumstances gave him no choice but to fight with force.

### The fight ensues

After he opened the door, a fight ensued as the American battled against the four men upstairs in the house.

"I was trying to keep them at the door," he said.

His wife, who had been tending to their infant upstairs, began walking downstairs when he screamed to call the police. The other children also were upstairs looking down as the men stormed in.

As the wife turned to run back up the stairs, one of the invaders slipped past and chased her. While the father fought, he heard his wife's screams.

"She's screaming bloody murder. She's screaming, 'my baby, my baby,'" he said.

"The whole time I am swinging," he said. "I am pounding on anybody and everything that comes near me. I just fought like hell. I don't know how I got the three guys back out the door."

Luckily, German doors typically lock automatically when closed, but the door was glass and the father said he was worried they could break back in.

He then dashed to the kitchen, grabbed a knife off the drain board and charged upstairs screaming, "Where is he?"

The invader had pinned the wife down and was smothering her with one hand on her neck, the American said.

"No talk," the invader kept saying in rudimentary English. Their infant, now awake, was crying. During the melee, their 5-year-old boy looked for a place to hide.

"He had seen one guy get past me," the American said. He took his sister and hid under the bed. "I am amazed he had that in him. We've never practiced what to do in a situation like this. He thought his mom was getting killed by bad guys."

Now armed with a knife, the father charged upstairs.

"I can see him coming at me as soon as I get to the top of the stairs," he said. "We collided in the doorway, scuffled right there in the door and into the hall at the top of the stairs. I think I got three stabs on him."

The invader then ran down the stairs. Concerned that he would lose the other culprits, the American said he attacked as he chased after the man. The culprit managed to make it out the door, which shut before anyone could come back in.

At 7:49 p.m., the call was made to German police who were on the scene in minutes.

The burglars fled by car but stopped in the village of Krickenbach, about 10 miles southeast of Landstuhl, German police said. They laid the 43-year-old injured man on the sidewalk. One of the suspects, the older brother of the injured man, asked a witness to call for medical help, officials said.

The wounded man died at the scene from the other wounds related to puncture wounds, investigators said, citing an autopsy report. His 51-year-old brother was arrested and charged with attempted robbery. Both brothers are German nationals, the police said.

Police continue to search for the other two suspects who fled.

### Police response

When police arrived and heard the family's account, they offered support, the American said.

"All the uniformed officers were completely behind me ... they were coming up and saying they would have done exactly what I did."

That night, the family was taken in for questioning, with the husband and wife driven separately to the station.

"I had to go in a car by myself, and the police officer put me in the front seat and said in his opinion I'm the victim."

Now, German prosecutors say legal protocol means they must investigate.

"What I am being ... investigated for is excessive use of force in the situation," the father said. "I haven't met with anyone on the prosecution side yet."

Prosecutor Iris Weingardt told

Stars and Stripes on Tuesday that she could not say how long the probe will take. Facts needed to be gathered and "only then can a legal evaluation follow," Wein-gardt said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver



GRÄFENWOCHER - VILSECK  
Phone: 0173-5736112  
Email: joelana@hblock.com

RAMBERG  
Phone: 09565-918699  
Email: roose@hblock.com

BAUMHOLZER  
Phone: 06783-98101  
Email: estokos@hblock.com

KAISERSLAUTERN  
Phone: 0631-3554711  
Email: estokos@hblock.com

RAMSTEIN  
Phone: 06371-8020410  
Email: edemom@hblock.com

SPANGDAHLEM-BITBURG  
Phone: 06565-918622  
Email: hahm@hblock.com

STUTTGART  
Phone: 0711-1207624  
Email: estokos@hblock.com

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Email: edemom@hblock.com

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## MILITARY

# Cobra Gold kicks off in Thailand

US, 28 other nations join in military exercise

By CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II  
Stars and Stripes

One of the world's largest and longest-running international military exercises officially began this week in Thailand.

The 38th annual Cobra Gold exercise, scheduled to run through Feb. 22, is co-sponsored by the Royal Thai and U.S. armed forces. They are joined by another 27 nations, including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore. China and India participate in civic-action parts of the exercise.

"The benefits of Cobra Gold have been clearly demonstrated through the past years," said Peter Haymond, the interim charge d'affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, during the opening ceremony at Akatotsarot Camp in the northern province of Phitsanulok, Thailand. "Our nations represented here today have fought side by side in battlefields and have worked together in humanitarian and natural disasters."

Its organizers say Cobra Gold is the largest annual Asia-Pacific military exercise. Its stated goals are to improve the capabilities of participating nations to plan oper-

ations and conduct them together; build relationships and enhance maritime security and response to natural disasters.

Haymond was joined by Gen. Pornpipat Benyarsi, the Thai chief of defense forces, and Lt. Gen. Gary Volesky, U.S. Army I Corps commander.

Haymond said the exercise improved the participating nations' response to the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in Indonesia, the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in Japan, the 2013 Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines and the 2015 earthquake in Nepal.

"Seven months ago, Cobra Gold partner nations supported Thai allies in the dramatic rescue of the Wild Boars soccer team from the caves in northern Thailand," he said.

Teams of international divers saved the 12 boys on the team and their coach, who were trapped when heavy rains flooded the Tham Luang cave as they explored it June 23. The rescue effort lasted 18 days.

This year's exercise will focus on military field training, civic assistance to communities and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, according to the exercise's statement.



ALVIN REEVES/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

**Soldiers from the Royal Thai Army demonstrate hall clearing as part of the military operations in urban terrain training at Cobra Gold 2019 on Wednesday in Phitsanulok, Thailand.**

"Thailand is one of the strongest allies we have," Volesky said at the opening ceremony. "To strengthen this already strong relationship is absolutely critical for us and I'm excited that we are able to participate."

Approximately 4,500 U.S. personnel are participating this year, including U.S. Navy Seabees, the amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay, the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and the U.S. Air Force 35th Fighter Squadron.

Sunday, the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis also docked

in Laem Chabang, Thailand, for a brief port call during its deployment to the Indo-Pacific region.

Approximately 10,000 personnel are participating in the exercise.

This year's Cobra Gold comes just ahead of general elections scheduled to take place March 24 in Thailand, the country's first national elections since a military coup in May 2014.

The number of U.S. units taking part in Cobra Gold were reduced in the year following the coup, although U.S. involvement

has returned to normal over the past two years.

"We have witnessed that this Thai-American initiative has become a significant milestone of military collaboration that has expanded to the regional level," Benyarsi said in a statement issued by the exercise. "I believe that not only has Cobra Gold served as a platform for understanding and working together in the region, but has now become beneficial for our other strategic partners."

vazquez.carlos@stripes.com  
Twitter: @StripesCarlos

## German officials turn over fatal accident probe to US Air Force

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
AND MARCUS KLOECKNER  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — German officials will allow the U.S. Air Force to decide whether to prosecute a U.S. airman who was involved in a car wreck near Ramstein Air Base last week that killed a German teenager.

The Air Force is still investigating the accident and has not decided on a course of action. The airman has not been charged and is not in military confinement, officials with the 86th Airlift Wing said Wednesday.

The decision to cede jurisdiction was made one day after the Feb. 6 crash, Bernhard Christian Erfurt, Kaiserslautern police spokesman, told Stars and Stripes on Tuesday.

Erfurt said the Status of Forces Agreement between the United States and Germany allows the host nation to turn over legal jurisdiction to U.S. authorities, but he could not say why the decision in this case was made. German prosecutors could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

A 17-year-old German youth died after the airman, who has not been publicly identified, hit him head-on while driving in the wrong lane on the L367 between Mackenbach and Weilerbach.

The 20-year-old servicemember, new to Germany and reporting to his first Air Force assignment at Ramstein, had passed another vehicle while driving a Chevrolet sports car toward Weilerbach.

He struck the victim, who was driving a three-



JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

**A roadside memorial of flowers and candles was created for a German teenager killed in a car crash Feb. 6 near Weilerbach, Germany, involving an airman assigned to Ramstein Air Base.**

wheeled Piaggio Ape light delivery vehicle, after failing to return to his lane, officials said last week.

The airman and his wife, a passenger in the vehicle, were injured and released from a German hospital the day after the accident.

A blood sample to test for the presence of alcohol or drugs was taken from the airman after the accident and given to a German forensics team, Erfurt said. Results should take from three to six weeks and will be forwarded to the Air Force when received, he said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com  
Twitter: @stripesjtown  
kloeckner.marcus@stripes.com

## Pentagon outlines its first AI strategy

By MATT O'BRIEN  
Associated Press

The U.S. military wants to expand its use of artificial intelligence in warfare but says it will take care to deploy the technology in accordance with the nation's values.

The Pentagon outlined its first AI strategy in a report released Tuesday.

The plan calls for accelerating the use of AI systems throughout the military, from intelligence-gathering operations to predicting maintenance problems in planes or ships. It urges the U.S. to advance such technology swiftly before other countries chip away at its technological advantage.

"Other nations, particularly China and Russia, are making significant investments in AI for military purposes, including in applications that raise questions regarding international norms and human rights," the report says.

The report makes little mention of autonomous weapons but cites an existing 2012 military directive that requires humans to be in control.

The U.S. and Russia are among a handful of nations that have blocked efforts at the United Nations for an international ban on "killer robots" — fully autonomous weapons systems that could one day conduct war without human intervention. The U.S. has argued that it's premature to try to regulate them.

The Pentagon hit a roadblock in its AI efforts last year after internal protests at Google led the tech company to drop out of Project Maven, which uses algorithms to interpret aerial video images from conflict zones. Other companies have sought to fill the vacuum, and the Pentagon is working with AI experts from industry and academia to establish ethical guidelines for its AI applications.

"Everything we've seen is with a human decision-maker in the loop," said Todd Probert, a vice president at Raytheon's intelligence division, which is working with the Pentagon on Maven and other projects. "It's using technology to help speed up the process but not supplant the command structure that's in place."

# MILITARY

## Conditions: Property firm vows changes to balance economics with service

### FROM FRONT PAGE

More than half of the respondents, 56 percent, reported a "negative" or "very negative" opinion of their living conditions, which the group concluded showed a "systemic problem" that defies location, rank and branch of service.

"No one should be worried about their safety in their own home," said Shannon Raszadin, the executive director of the Military Family Advisory Network. Health concerns and repairs have become "all-consuming" for many families, she told The Washington Post, diverting their focus from military duties and upcoming deployments.

In 1996, the Pentagon reported to Congress that federally run housing was so badly neglected that it posed the risk of "collapsing the force." Privatization began the same year under the Military Housing Privatization Initiative, created specifically to address poor living conditions and the shortage of "quality affordable private housing."

Contractors moved in to absorb reconstruction costs in exchange for the steady flow of income from 50-year leases.

Since then, 99 percent of on-base housing has been privatized. But families were not as happy as shareholders. A 2015 Pentagon inspector general report found "pervasive" health and safety hazards at military homes operated by such companies, and the IG blamed poor maintenance and oversight.

About 15 private real estate companies partner with the Army, Air Force and Navy to manage about 200,000 units, a Reuters investigation found, but the Pentagon has not said how much of housing stipends paid to troops flow to the companies as rent payments. Reuters estimated it was \$3.9 billion in 2018 alone.

Some of these companies advertise high-quality homes and positive customer ratings, with photos of happy families splashed across websites.

None of them showed the toxic mold blooms that stratified in Amie Norquist's home at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., or foretold the months of ailments the family faced.

Norquist, her Army husband and their four children moved into their home in July, she told The Post. Shortly thereafter, their health problems mushroomed. One child went to the emergency room with breathing problems. Another developed pneumonia, she said.

Spores ringed an air duct, photos provided to The Post show. Instead of replacing sub-flooring, a contractor referred by the property manager, Harbor Bay, sanded through the mold but didn't cover the family's clothes, furniture and carpets, she said, bombarding their home with toxic spores as they huddled in a hotel room for nearly two months.

Michael's Military Housing, the parent company of Harbor Bay, did not respond to a request for comment.



CRYSTAL A. JENKINS/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**This home at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, lacked proper air circulation and had excess moisture, which produced mold. About 15 private real estate companies partner with the Army, Air Force and Navy to manage about 200,000 units, Reuters found.**

Once the family came back in October, the real health problems began. Her husband needed an inhaler despite having no history of asthma, and their daughter Elise's respiratory problems were linked to mold. The family was forced to move off-base.

Elise, 3, was given a working diagnosis of chronic inflammatory response syndrome caused by a water-damaged home, a Tampa doctor's letter shows. The condition can alter brain function and destabilize the autoimmune system, the doctor warned.

"It's been extremely traumatic for our family," Norquist said.

Companies rely on performance incentives for additional profit, which is paid by military installations. MacDill's command penalized Harbor Bay for a rash of other mold problems, the Tampa Bay Times reported.

In a statement, the Pentagon said tenants can resolve issues by withholding rent payments and contacting the management companies or their base's housing office. They can also escalate their cases to installation commanders or an inspector general, said Heather Babb, a Pentagon spokeswoman.

Respondents to the survey said it was not that easy and that they found it difficult, or impossible, to withhold rent or pressure commanders and companies to intervene in emergencies. Several families interviewed "were unwilling to come forward publicly because they were afraid of retaliation or negative impact on their servicemember's career," the survey said.

A Senate Armed Services Committee hearing with military families, private military home companies and defense officials was scheduled for Wednesday.

At Fort Bragg, N.C., Heather Beckstrom believes her daughter's epilepsy, her son's cancer

diagnosis and her other son's cleft palate are linked to the untreated sewer water from a chronically overflowing toilet that sent several inches of water gushing onto the floor. It occurred so frequently and forcefully, she said, that a water line was visible on the stucco from the outside.

The Mayo Clinic, the National Institute of Environmental

**"We know we have let down some of our residents. We know what it takes to serve our residents, and we are fixing it."**

**Kelly Douglas**  
spokeswoman for Corvias, which manages 27,000 military homes

Health Sciences and the National Cancer Institute have suggested environmental hazards such as untreated wastewater can play a role in those conditions. Beckstrom, 37, said her family's medical problems began after they moved into the home in February 2011 but does not have medically conclusive statements from doctors that point to a cause.

Her request to move houses was denied in October 2012 by Corvias, the property manager, but was quickly reversed and granted on grounds of home safety concerns rather than health concerns, she said.

In a statement, Corvias acknowledged failures and said it instituted measures to improve service quality, measures such as fast response repair times and a bigger residential support staff for the 27,000 military homes in its portfolio.

"We know we have let down some of our residents. We know

what it takes to serve our residents, and we are fixing it," said Kelly Douglas, a company spokeswoman.

The privatization effort at first prompted cost-cutting, Douglas said, and triggered "lower-touch service," fewer staff members and less communication with residents. "For that we are sorry, but we are committed to making whatever changes are necessary to balance economics with great resident service," Douglas said.

Beckstrom was unmoved by Corvias' statement.

"I question their sincerity because of the timing," she said, citing the Senate hearing and investigations into the company by Reuters. "The damage has been done long-term."

An online petition titled "Hold Corvias Accountable" garnered more than 3,300 signatures.

At the time Beckstrom lived on-base, Fort Bragg was experiencing an epidemic of infant deaths. In one home alone, three infants from three families died, ProPublica reported, igniting concern that there were common environmental hazards.

Norquist thinks the fight has been so pronounced that it has affected the military's effort abroad. Her husband's deployment was postponed after the house and medical problems arose. Now his asthma has held him back indefinitely.

"This has been detrimental to force readiness for him," she said. "How can he deploy and defend the country when he's worried about his family surviving?"

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## NATION

# Trump likely to sign funding deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Under mounting pressure from his own party, President Donald Trump appears to be grudgingly leaning toward accepting an agreement that would head off a threatened second government shutdown but provide just a fraction of the money he's been demanding for his Mexican border wall.

Trump said Tuesday he would need more time to study the plan, but he also declared that he was not expecting another shutdown this weekend when funding for parts of the government would run out. He also strongly signaled he planned to scrounge up additional dollars for the wall by raiding other federal coffers to deliver on the signature promise of his presidential campaign.

"I can't say I'm happy. I can't say I'm thrilled," Trump said of the proposed deal. "But the wall is getting built, regardless. It doesn't matter because we're doing other things beyond what we're talking about here."

Trump sounded more accepting in a Tuesday night tweet, thinking "all Republicans for the work you have done in dealing with the Radical Left on Border Security."

Accepting the deal, worked out by congressional negotiators from both parties, would be a disappointment for a president who has repeatedly insisted he needs \$5.7 billion for a barrier along the U.S.-Mexico border, saying the project is paramount for national security.

Trump turned down a similar deal in December, forcing the 35-day partial shutdown. There is little appetite in Washington for a repeat.

Lawmakers tentatively agreed to a deal that would provide nearly \$1.4 billion for border barriers and keep the government funded for the rest of the fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30.

Filling in the details has taken some time, as is typical, and aides reported Wednesday that the measure had hit some snags, though they doubted they would prove fatal.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said the president was awaiting a final version.

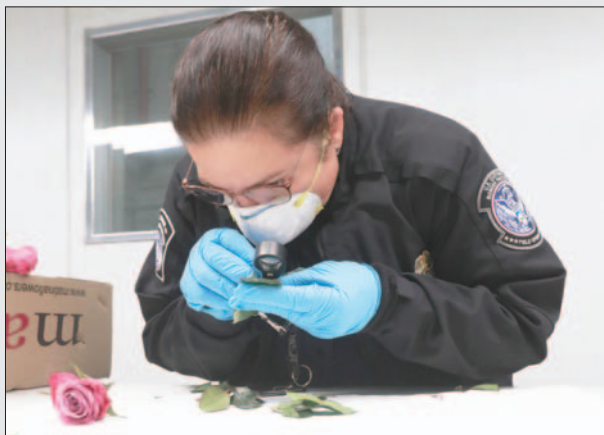
"We want to see the final piece of legislation, and we'll make a determination at that point," she said Wednesday.

Trump has made clear in phone calls since the deal was announced that he had wanted more money for the wall. And he has expressed concern the plan is being spun as a defeat for him in the media, according to a Republican familiar with the president's interactions but not authorized to speak publicly.

Still, many expected him to



Shelby



WILFREDO LEE/AP

**U.S. Customs and Border Protection agricultural specialist Janette Jimenez inspects flowers at Miami International Airport last week. Preventing pests from threatening U.S. crops is a service that kept pace with the pre-Valentine's Day rush despite the recent partial government shutdown.**

## Rose inspections didn't shut down

Associated Press

MIAMI — Throughout the five-week government shutdown, one essential government service continued at Miami International Airport: checking for exotic bugs in bunches of roses destined for Valentine's Day bouquets.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection agriculture inspectors kept up their round-the-clock inspections without pay just as the pre-holiday rush of flower imports started to peak.

About 90 percent of cut flowers imported into the U.S. every year come through the Miami airport. Border Protection agriculture specialists check those goods by hand, stem by stem, for stowaways that could threaten U.S. crops.

"Chances are, if you buy a loved one flowers this Valentine's season, they came through this port of entry," said Christopher Maston, the agency's port director at Miami's airport.

Valentine's Day is the No. 1 holiday for most florists, and the industry cautiously monitored the shutdown for any delays in getting their flowers through customs. A bigger concern was the weather — a snowstorm just before Feb. 14 could derail deliveries. While a delay would be inconvenient, it would not hurt the blooms, said Christine Boldt, executive vice president of the Association of Florida Importers of Florida.

"As long as flowers are kept cold, they will stay

dormant and they will be fine," Boldt said.

Rose growers start their carefully timed production plans three or four months early in order to have the flowers blooming for Feb. 14. The roses begin arriving in Miami soon after New Year's Day, and the push continues through Valentine's Day.

"It's a one-day holiday centered around the rose," Boldt said.

All year long, the volume of roses and other flowers coming into Miami is vastly larger than anywhere else in the U.S. More than 6 billion cut flower stems were examined here in 2018, compared with just under 1 billion processed at all other ports from Boston to Honolulu.

Last year, agriculture inspectors in Miami examined 1.3 billion cut flower stems and kept more than 2,100 pests from leaving the airport during the Valentine's season.

Inspectors wear gloves and masks as they work at long tables in cold, brightly lit rooms. They unwrap each bouquet, pick through its stems and shake it upside down over a placemat-size piece of white paper. Everything that falls onto the paper — leaves, flower buds and what appear to be specks of dirt — is examined for aphids, mites, moths and other insects.

With or without another shutdown, another flower-focused holiday looms on inspectors' calendars: Mother's Day.

sign on nonetheless.

The agreement would allow \$5 million of new fencing — constructed using existing designs such as metal slats — but far less than the 215 miles the White House demanded in December. The fencing would be built in Texas' Rio Grande Valley.

Full details were not expected to be released until later Wednesday as lawmakers worked to translate their verbal agreement into legislation.

Lawmakers need to pass some

kind of funding bill to avoid another shutdown at midnight Friday.

Trump was briefed on the plan Tuesday by Appropriations Committee Chairman Richard Shelby, R-Ala., and sounded more optimistic after their discussion.

"Looking over all aspects knowing that this will be hooked up with lots of money from other sources," he tweeted, adding, "Regardless of Wall money, it is being built as we speak."

A Shelby aide, who was not authorized to describe the conver-

sation by name and who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the senator described the wall money in the agreement to Trump as a down payment.

Shelby did not say whether Trump would sign the measure, but Trump told him he would study it.

The aide said the measure contains \$22.5 billion for border security programs, including programs run by Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

## Ginsburg not the 1st justice to miss time

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has missed a month of Supreme Court arguments as she recovers from lung cancer surgery. But she's not the first justice to be away for a while and her absence hardly compares with those of some of her predecessors.

The day before the Supreme Court began its term in October 1949, Justice William Douglas broke 14 ribs and suffered a punctured lung when he was thrown from his horse on a trail in the Cascade Mountains in Washington state. He didn't return to the bench for nearly a half-year, and his long recovery caused delays in several cases.

Like much of what goes on away from public view at the Supreme Court, how the justices deal with a colleague's absence can be opaque. The individual justice decides whether to rule on cases even if she has missed arguments. Indeed, Chief Justice John Roberts already has announced that Ginsburg, 85, is participating in the cases she missed.

And only the justice can decide when an injury or illness is so severe that retirement is the only option. A quarter-century after his riding accident, Douglas suffered a serious stroke, but refused to retire for months. His weakened state caused a backlog and the other justices refused to issue decisions in cases where Douglas had provided the fifth, majority-making vote.

"There aren't any rules about this and so much is left to the individual justice," said Erwin Chemerinsky, who argued a case during Ginsburg's absence.

Ginsburg could be back on the bench when the court next meets Tuesday, and even as she has been away, she has not missed any votes.

In some state court systems, including California, the highest court can essentially borrow a judge from a lower court to temporarily replace an absent member, said Chemerinsky, the dean of the law school at the University of California, Berkeley. The Supreme Court has no similar arrangement. The nine justices are there for as long as they wish, and neither a retired justice nor an appellate judge can fill a void.

The most recent example of a justice missing substantial time was in 2004 and 2005, when Chief Justice William Rehnquist was suffering from thyroid cancer and was not on the bench for 44 arguments over five months. John Paul Stevens, the longest-serving justice, stepped in to preside when Rehnquist was away.

Still, Rehnquist voted in most of the cases for which he did not attend the arguments. He returned to the court in late March and made it through the end of the court's term in late June before dying on Sept. 3 at age 80.



NATION

# McConnell plans vote on Dems' Green New Deal

By MATTHEW DALY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate will vote on the Green New Deal, a moonshot plan by Democrats to combat climate change, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday, announcing a move designed to force Senate Democrats — including a cast of presidential candidates — into a political bind.

The plan, initially championed by freshman Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, calls for a New Deal-style mobilization to shift the U.S. economy away from fossil fuels such as oil and coal and replace them with renewable sources such as wind and solar power. Republicans have mocked it as a progressive pipe dream that would drive the economy off a cliff and lead to a huge tax increase, citing evidence of the creep of “socialism” in the party.

The upcoming vote — which has not yet been scheduled — will “give everybody an opportunity to go on record,” McConnell said.

The vote could be a moment of triumph for support from the party's base. The Senate vote will test how far left those candidates are willing to go, risking leaving moderate voters behind.

Republicans see it — and its rocky rollout promoting elements of the proposal later rescinded — as a political opening.

President Donald Trump

slammed the Green New Deal at a rally Monday in El Paso, Texas, saying it would “shut down American energy.” It sounds like “a high-school term paper that got a low mark,” he said.

Trump has frequently expressed doubt about climate change and said he does not believe action is needed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming. His administration has focused on U.S. “energy dominance” and increased production of oil, gas and coal on federal and private land.

The climate measure is already supported by at least five senators seeking the Democratic nomination for president: Cory Booker, of New Jersey; Kirsten Gillibrand, of New York; Kamala Harris, of California; Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts; and Amy Klobuchar, of Minnesota. Vermont Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, who is likely to enter the Democratic primary soon, is also a supporter.

Spearheaded by Ocasio-Cortez, of New York, and Democratic Sen. Ed Markey, of Massachusetts, the proposal calls for dramatic steps to virtually eliminate U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The nonbinding resolution sets a goal to meet “100 percent of the power demand in the United States through clean, renewable and zero-emission energy sources,” including nuclear power.

The plan goes far beyond energy to urge national health care coverage and job guarantees, as well as high-quality education, affordable housing and a high-speed rail network.

It also calls for upgrading all existing buildings in the United States to be energy-efficient.

## National debt climbs to \$22T

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The national debt has passed a new milestone, topping \$22 trillion for the first time.

The Treasury Department's daily statement showed Tuesday that total outstanding public debt stands at \$22.01 trillion. It stood at \$19.95 trillion when President Donald Trump took office on Jan. 20, 2017.

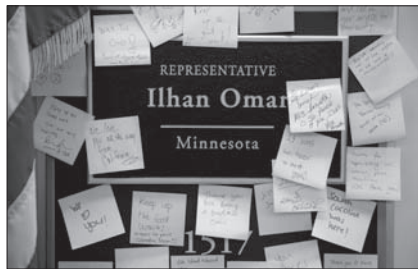
The debt figure has been accelerating since the passage of Trump's \$1.5 trillion tax cut in December 2017 and action by Congress last year to increase spending on domestic and military programs.

The national debt is the total of the annual budget deficits. The Congressional Budget Office projects that this year's deficit will be \$897 billion — a 15.1 percent increase over last year's imbal-

ance of \$779 billion. In the coming years, the CBO forecasts that the deficit will keep rising, top \$1 trillion annually beginning in 2022 and never drop below \$1 trillion through 2029. Much of the increase will come from mounting costs to fund Social Security and Medicare as baby boomers continue to retire.

The Trump administration contends that its tax cuts will eventually pay for themselves by generating faster economic growth. That projection is disputed by many economists.

Despite the rising levels of federal debt, many economists say they think the risks remain slight and point to current interest rates, which remain unusually low by historical standards. Still, some budget experts warn that ever-rising federal debt poses substantial risks for the government.



People have placed post-it notes of support Monday outside the office of Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., right, on Capitol Hill. Omar has “unequivocally” apologized for tweets suggesting a powerful pro-Israel interest group paid members of Congress to support Israel.



AP photos

## President says representative should resign over Israel tweet

By PATRICK CONDON  
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump on Tuesday said that Minnesota U.S. Rep. Ilhan Omar should resign from Congress or not be allowed to serve on committees following her tweet about Israel, which politicians from both parties decried as anti-Semitic.

“Anti-Semitism has no place in the United States Congress,” Trump said to reporters at a White House Cabinet meeting. He also called her apology “lame.”

It was the latest fallout for Omar, whose apology came Monday afternoon following an unusual public rebuke from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other House Democratic leaders. Omar's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Trump's remarks.

In a tweet on Sunday, Omar posted a song lyric, “It's all about the Benjamins, baby” — which she later clarified to say she meant to suggest that money from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, AIPAC, drove U.S. politicians to support Israel. It was not the first time that Omar has tweeted criticism of Israel, and before the latest

tweet she had already had to work to allay concerns among Twin Cities Jewish groups about past online remarks.

“Anti-Semitism is real and I am grateful for Jewish allies and colleagues who are educating me on the painful history of anti-Semitic tropes. My intention is never to offend my constituents or Jewish Americans as a whole,” Omar wrote in her apology. She added that she continues to be concerned by the power of lobbyists in Washington, not just AIPAC but others like the National Rifle Association and the fossil fuel industry.

Several other U.S. House Democrats were critical of Omar's tweet, including fellow Minnesota Rep. Dean Phillips, who is Jewish. Omar has met with several of those members, including Phillips, following the public blowup.

Another critic was Rep. Eliot Engel, the New York Democrat who chairs House Foreign Affairs. Omar, who took office at the beginning of January, won a coveted spot on that panel, as did Phillips. Republicans have called for her removal, but Democratic leaders had not done so.

“Anti-Semitism in any form is unacceptable, and it's shocking to hear a Member of Congress invoke the anti-Semitic trope of ‘Jewish money,’” Engel said in a statement in response to Omar's tweet.

Trump's response on Tuesday to a question from a reporter about Omar was not the first time he talked about her latest controversy. He also commented Monday night in El Paso, Texas, saying, “I think it was a terrible statement and I don't think her apology was adequate.”

Trump himself has been the subject of frequent criticism from Democrats and some Republicans for tweets and public statements about various groups of people.

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## NATION

# Politician's accuser speaks on assault issues

Professor doesn't talk directly about alleged attack by Virginia's lieutenant governor when they were at Duke



CASBS, STANFORD UNIVERSITY/AP

Vanessa Tyson speaks at a Stanford University symposium Tuesday in her first public appearance since she accused Virginia Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax of assaulting her in 2004.

By PAUL ELIAS  
Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — A college professor avoided talking directly about her accusation that Virginia's lieutenant governor sexually assaulted her, but she was not shy about publicly discussing her research and thoughts on the growing number of women reporting abuse.

"One thing that I notice about sexual violence is that a lot of people would like to glance away from this," Vanessa Tyson told a Stanford University symposium. "It's one of the ugliest parts of humanity. Trust me."

Tyson, appearing Tuesday night as one of two panelists at the event called "Betrayal and Courage in the Age of #MeToo," was making her first public appearance since she accused Virginia Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax of assaulting her in 2004. Tyson is a political science professor at Southern California's Scripps College who is spending a year at Stanford as a research fellow.

Fairfax said he recalled the encounter, which he said was consensual, and denied assaulting or coercing Tyson.

"Perhaps we have to reshape how we understand consent and how we teach it to society as a whole,"

Tyson said during her talk, which also included her experience with students who were sexually assaulted confiding in her and the difficulty victims have when institutions don't appear to take their claims seriously.

"Speaking as a professor at a women's college, sometimes you have to lead by example," Tyson said. "No matter how hard it is."

Tyson slipped in and out of the symposium without talking to reporters. Stanford authorities prohibited audience members from asking Tyson about the Fairfax matter.

The 100 audience members crammed in the main room greeted Tyson with a standing ovation.

She told the audience she was "deeply disturbed" by attempts to discredit victims' credibility. Tyson recounted how she and Stanford colleagues watched on television as Christine Blasey Ford testified in Washington during Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation hearing.

"As she shook, we shook with her," she said. "As she told her story, we felt the pain she so visibly demonstrated."

Tyson is now represented by the same legal team that represented Blasey Ford.

## Ex-prosecutor, brother are indicted in Hawaii

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER  
Associated Press

HONOLULU — A federal grand jury indictment unsealed Tuesday accuses a former Honolulu city prosecutor of dealing opioids with her physician brother and using her position to cover up their crimes.

Katherine Kealooha, the wife of now-retired Honolulu police chief Louis Kealooha, steered law enforcement away from investigating her brother, Dr. Rudolph Puana, after police told her that he was buying cocaine, according to the indictment.

The siblings and unnamed co-conspirators were charged with distributing oxycodone, fentanyl and Xanax. Messages left for their lawyers were not immediately returned.

Puana was arrested amid a growing federal corruption investigation that has resulted in indictments against the Kealoahas and current and former officers.

They are scheduled to go to trial next month after being accused of framing Katherine Kealooha's uncle for the theft of the couple's home mailbox to discredit him in a family financial dispute.

On Tuesday, Hawaii Attorney General Claire Connors asked the state Supreme Court to immediately suspend Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney Keith Kaneshiro because he is a target in the investigation.

A court hearing is scheduled Thursday for a separate petition by a Honolulu businessman calling for Kaneshiro's impeachment.

Bill McCorrison, an attorney representing Kaneshiro, confirmed that Kaneshiro received a letter saying he is a target of



Puana

the investigation, but he contends Connors' petition is speculative and based on media reports. McCorrison said there's no dysfunction in the

prosecutor's office.

Corporation Counsel Donna Leong, Honolulu's chief legal officer, took a leave of absence after receiving a target letter linked to the investigation. Chasid Sapolu, Honolulu's second-highest-ranking prosecutor, announced a leave of absence after receiving a subject letter.

The latest indictment said Puana, an anesthesiologist and pain doctor, advised one co-conspirator to use proceeds from the sale of illegal prescription pain medication to buy cocaine for the two of them. They would also "sell and barter" medication in exchange for cocaine, the indictment said.

When a police officer notified Kealooha that her brother and a co-conspirator were buying and using cocaine, she "arranged to have herself assigned as the prosecutor" of the investigation, the indictment said.

"That allowed her to 'steer law enforcement scrutiny away from her brother's felonious conduct in that drug conspiracy,'" the indictment said, add that she then gave favorable plea deals to others involved "to reduce the likelihood they would reveal that her brother had distributed controlled substances."



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Amanda Burt, center, a teacher at Grant Rancy Elementary School, holds up a placard during a rally for striking Denver Public Schools instructors in Civic Center Park on Tuesday.

## Denver teachers strike enters 3rd day

By COLLEEN SLEVIN  
Associated Press

DENVER — Denver teachers are set to extend their strike into a third day after negotiations with district leaders ended Tuesday night without a deal.

Tuesday's talks came a day after more than half of the city's teachers walked off the job amid a pay dispute.

The negotiations, which were set to resume Wednesday, began with discussions over changing Denver's pay system to more closely resemble those in other districts that make it easier for teachers to advance in pay based on experience, education and training.

The teachers are following the lead of educators across the country by donning red amid strikes

and protests for better pay and working conditions.

On Tuesday, all schools remained open and staffed by administrators, substitutes and teachers not participating in the strike.

At the start of the talks, superintendent Susana Cordova acknowledged that students were not getting the kind of instruction they normally would.

Lead union negotiator Rob Gould interrupted to tell her, "You can't do the job without us."

Preliminary reports from the school district indicate 58 percent of teachers did not report to work on Tuesday, slightly more than on the first day of the strike Monday.

The walkout came about a year after West Virginia teachers launched the national "Red4Ed" movement with a nine-day strike

in which they won 5 percent pay raises. Most recently, Los Angeles teachers held a six-day strike last month.

There are 71,000 students in district-run schools. Another 21,000 are enrolled in charter schools unaffected by the strike.

Lily Eskelsen Garcia, president of the National Education Association, told a crowd of picketing teachers outside the state Capitol on Monday that theirs was the latest in a national movement to provide just compensation to educators.

"You are unique here in Denver because here you are saying, 'Can I just know what I'm being paid?'" she said. "Let me tell you: You are going to change this."

The dispute is over the school district's incentive-based pay system.

## NATION



BUREAU OF PRISONS, THE (COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.) GAZETTE/AP

A 2004 aerial view shows the Federal Correctional Complex in Florence, Colo. Clockwise from lower left are the minimum security Federal Prison Camp, the high security United States Penitentiary, the maximum security United States Penitentiary and the Federal Correctional Institution. Experts say convicted drug lord Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán is a prime candidate for the “Supermax” prison.

## ‘Supermax’ site may be the end of road for ‘El Chapo’

By JIM MUSTIAN  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — In the world of corrections, there are inmates who pose security risks, and then there’s “El Chapo.”

Drug lord Joaquín Guzmán has an unparalleled record of jailbreaks, having escaped two high-security Mexican prisons before his ultimate capture and extradition to the United States.

So with Guzmán convicted Tuesday of drug trafficking and staring at an expected life sentence, where will the U.S. imprison a larger-than-life kingpin with a Houdini-like tendency to slip away?

Experts say Guzmán seems the ideal candidate for the federal government’s “Supermax” prison in Florence, Colo., also known as ADX for “administrative maximum.” The facility is so secure, so remote and so austere that it has been called the “Alcatraz of the Rockies.”

“El Chapo fits the bill perfectly,” said Cameron Lindsay, a retired warden who ran three federal lockups, including the Metropolitan Detention Center in Brooklyn. “I’d be absolutely shocked if he’s not sent to the ADX.” Located outside an old mining town about two hours south of Denver, Supermax’s hardened buildings house the nation’s most violent offenders, with many of its 400 inmates held alone for 23 hours a day in 7-by-12-foot cells with fixed furnishings made of reinforced concrete.

Unabomber Ted Kaczynski, Bos-

ton Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, Sept. 11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui and Oklahoma City bombing accomplice Terry Nichols are among those who call it home.

But Guzmán, set to be sentenced in June for smuggling enormous amounts of narcotics into the U.S. and having a hand in dozens of murders, would stand out even from Supermax’s infamous roster because of his almost mythical reputation for breaking out.

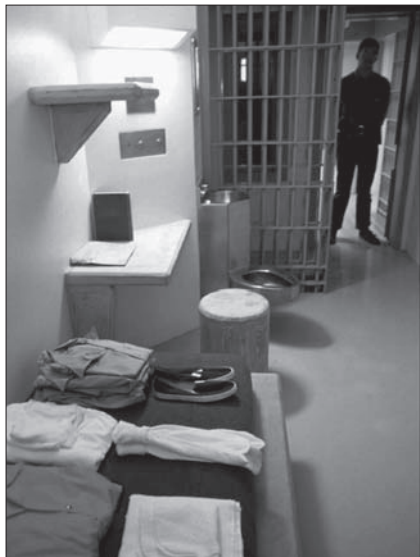
That includes a sensational 2015 escape from the maximum-security Altiplano prison in central Mexico, where he communicated with accomplices for weeks via cellphone, slipped into an escape hatch beneath his shower, hopped on the back of a waiting motorcycle and sped through a milelong, hand-dug tunnel to freedom.

Bribery is widely believed to have enabled that jailbreak, as well as a 2001 escape in which Guzmán was smuggled out of another top-security Mexican prison in a laundry basket.

“There had to be collusion from within,” said Mike Vigil, a former U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agent who worked undercover in Mexico. “There is no doubt corruption played a role in both of his spectacular escapes.”

Could that happen at Supermax? Not likely.

Prisoners at Supermax spend years in solitary confinement and often go days “with only a few words spoken to them,” an Amnesty International report found. One former prisoner, in an interview



MARK REIS, THE (COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.) GAZETTE/AP

A corrections officer stands in the doorway of a typical cell in a general population unit at the U.S. Penitentiary Administrative Maximum Security facility in Florence in 1994.

with The Boston Globe, described the lockup as a “high-tech version of hell, designed to shut down all sensory perception.”

Most inmates at Supermax are given a television, but their only actual view of the outside world is a 4-inch window. The window’s design prevents them from even determining where they are housed in the facility. Human interaction is minimal. Prisoners eat all meals in the solitude of their own cells, within feet of their toilets.

The facility itself is guarded by razor-wire fences, gun towers,

heavily armed patrols and attack dogs.

“If ever there were an escape-proof prison, it’s the facility at Florence,” said Burl Cain, the former longtime warden of the maximum-security Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. “It’s the prison of all prisons.”

While federal authorities have not said for certain where El Chapo will be housed, he’s staring at “a sentence from which there is no escape and no return,” U.S. Attorney Richard Donoghue said after Tuesday’s verdict.

## Detective is killed by friendly fire in NYC

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A New York City police detective was shot and killed by friendly fire Tuesday night as officers confronted a robbery suspect who turned out to be armed with a replica handgun, Commissioner James O’Neill said.

“This appears to be an absolutely tragic case of friendly fire,” an emotional O’Neill said at a late-night news conference.

Detective Brian Simonsen, 42, was struck in the chest as multiple officers fired on the suspect at a T-Mobile store

in Queens, O’Neill said. Simonsen, a 19-year NYPD veteran, was put in a squad car and taken to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Sgt. Matthew Gorman was shot in the leg, O’Neill said. A passer-by drove him to the hospital. Gorman is in stable condition.

The suspect, a 27-year-old man with an extensive criminal record, was armed with an imitation firearm, O’Neill said. He was wounded and is hospitalized in stable condition.

“Make no mistake about it, friendly fire aside, it is because of the actions of the suspect that Detective Simonsen is dead,” O’Neill said.

Police swarmed to the store at 6:10 p.m. after a 911 caller standing outside reported seeing the suspect — dressed in all black and carrying a duffel bag — take two employees to a back room at gunpoint, according to dramatic dispatch audio.

“No sirens, guys,” a dispatcher warns.

Simonsen and Gorman were working on another case nearby when the call came over and arrived around the same time as patrol officers, O’Neill said. At first, the front of the store appeared empty, he said.

Then a man matching the suspect’s description emerged from the rear of the store pointing at them what appeared to be a handgun and police started shooting, he said.

“Shots fired! Shots fired!” an officer is heard yelling on the dispatch audio over a barrage of gunshots.

About a minute later, Gorman tells dispatchers that he’s been hit and an officer screams for dispatchers to rush an ambulance to the scene.

The gunfire blew out the store’s doors, showering the sidewalk with glass.

At Jamaica Hospital, officers guarded the emergency room entrance as O’Neill and Mayor Bill de Blasio met with Gorman and offered their condolences to Simonsen’s wife and mother.



Simonsen



## NATION

# Rule could limit response to off-campus sex assaults

BY COLLIN BINKLEY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At some of the nation's largest universities, the vast majority of sexual assaults take place not in dorm rooms or anywhere else on school property but in the neighborhoods beyond campus boundaries, according to data obtained by The Associated Press.

But the schools' obligation to investigate and respond to those off-campus attacks could be dramatically reduced by the Education Department's proposed overhaul of campus sexual assault rules. That's alarmed advocacy groups and school officials who say it would strip students of important protections in the areas where most of them live.

At the University of Texas in Austin, officials have received 58 reports of sexual assaults on campus grounds since the fall of 2014 while fielding 237 involving private apartments, houses and other areas outside campus, according to the data obtained through public records requests. Another 160 reports didn't include locations.

"The majority of our students are just not in proximity to campus, and a lot of things happen when they're not on campus," said Krista Anderson, the university's Title IX coordinator. Of the school's 51,000 students, she said, only about 18 percent live in campus housing.

For now, federal guidelines urge colleges to take action against any sexual misconduct that disrupts a student's education, regardless of where it took place.

In its proposed rule, the department says schools should be required to address sexual misconduct only if it occurs within their "programs or activities," a designation that would exclude many cases off campus.

The proposal is included in Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' revision of Obama-era guidance on campus sexual assault, which officials say is unfairly skewed against those accused of assault and goes beyond the intended scope of Title IX, the federal law barring sex discrimination in education. Some colleges had complained that the Obama rules were too complex and could be overly burdensome.

The AP asked the nation's 10 largest public universities for several years of data on the topic. Out of eight that provided data, five had more reports from off-campus than on school property: the University of Texas, Texas A&M, Arizona State, Michigan State and the University of Central Florida.

Leaders of some schools say the proposal appears

to let them decide whether to handle cases beyond their borders, but conflicting language has led some to believe they would actually be barred from it.

One section says schools would be permitted to address cases outside their property, while another says schools would have to dismiss all complaints from outside their programs. Dozens of schools have asked the department for clarification.

Department spokeswoman Liz Hill said schools would be able to investigate cases outside their programs "at their discretion" but did not clarify the discrepancy. Unless the conflicting language is changed, legal experts say, it could give accused students legal grounds to get their cases dismissed.

Since the proposal was issued in November, it has generated a flood of feedback from students, parents, schools, politicians and activists on both sides.

Few points, however, have drawn as much anger as the move to reduce schools' obligations off campus. In public comments, students said it would leave little recourse for those assaulted at parties, bars or other sites. Advocacy groups worry that fewer victims would report assaults, and that more would drop out of school.

"We think it's very dangerous," said Terri Poore, policy director at the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, an advocacy group in Washington. "There are several other very, very, disturbing issues, but this is absolutely among the worst aspects of the proposed rule."

Many colleges have raised their own concerns, especially institutions that fear the rule would cut off their authority at campus boundaries.

Even supporters of the rule say it needs clarification, but they contend it's a step in the right direction. Some argue that police are better equipped than schools to handle cases away from campus property, although advocates who work with victims counter that only a fraction of assaults are ever reported to police.

The Education Department is now reviewing the public comments before it issues a final rule, a process expected to take several months.

**There are several other very, very, disturbing issues, but this is absolutely among the worst aspects of the proposed rule.**

**Terri Poore**  
National Alliance to End Sexual Violence



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

**King, a wire fox terrier, won best in show at the 143rd Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York on Tuesday.**

## Fox terrier takes top prize at Westminster

BY BEN WALKER  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Wire fox terriers are still King at Westminster. A wire fox from Brazil who's won big in Europe became America's top dog Tuesday night, beating out a crowd-pleasing long-haired dachshund and popular Sussex spaniel.

There were some boos — along with modest cheers — at Madison Square Garden when judge Peter Green pointed at the 7-year-old King.

"It doesn't get any better than that," handler Gabriel Rangel said.

The win was hardly a surprise. Wire fox terriers have won 15 times at the nation's most prestigious dog show, far more than any other breed. Scottish terriers are second, with eight.

Green is a renowned figure in the dog world, especially for his work with terriers. He's previously picked King as the champ at other shows.

A Havanese named Bono came in second among the more than 2,800 dogs who entered here.

Also in the final ring were Bean the Sussex spaniel, Burns the boxer and Baby Lars the bouvier des Flandres.

The fan favorites at the Garden were clearly Bean and Burns.

Chants of "Bean! Bean! Bean!" bounced around the packed arena as the Sussex spaniel rounded the ring. Burns drew loud cheers as his long hair flowed while circling the green carpet.

There was a bit of dog show drama, too, at the 143rd Westminster Kennel Club.

A day after earning a coveted spot in the final ring of seven, spirited Colton the shippke was ruled ineligible for best in show.

There was a conflict of interest — Green's longtime partner has co-owned dogs with one of Colton's co-owners. Colton was allowed to run around the ring, then was excused.

"This doesn't negate all he's done here," handler Christa Cook said as she brushed Colton's coat backstage at the Garden. "It's been a great experience; his accomplishment is in the book forever."

Owner Victor Malzoni Jr., of Brazil, gets no prize money for this win. Besides a shiny silver bowl, the reward comes in lucrative breeding rights and a lifetime of bragging rights.

This was the 47th overall best in show win for the wire fox with a full name of Kingarthur Van Folly Home.

## States look to boost oversight of struggling small colleges

BY LISA RATHEK  
AND COLLIN BINKLEY  
Associated Press

POULTNEY, Vt. — After 185 years of educating students on its campus of brick buildings on Poultney's main street, Green Mountain College announced last month it would close after this academic year, leaving hundreds of students scrambling to figure out where to go next.

The liberal arts college, which saw enrollment drop 43 percent over the last decade, is going the way of some other small schools that have struggled to stay afloat amid a shift toward more career-oriented training and, particularly in college-rich New England, a decline in the number of high school



LISA RATHEK/AP

**Green Mountain College, a liberal arts college in Poultney, Vt., announced it will close in May.**

students.

To help protect students, state officials in the region have been looking into increasing their oversight of private, independent

colleges. The plans have met resistance from college leaders, who worry financial woes could be publicized before they are at serious risk of closing.

In Massachusetts, where at least 17 colleges have closed or merged over the past six years, state education officials are moving forward with a plan to screen colleges every year and gauge their risk of closing. If the state concludes a school might not finish the next academic year, the school would be required to notify students and prepare a plan to help them transfer elsewhere.

In Vermont, officials took notice when Burlington College folded in 2016 under the weight of debt from a real estate deal, leaving student records behind. The state Agency of Education had to take over the records, which was costly, said Rep. Lawrence Cupoli, vice chairman of the House Committee on

Education. The following year, the Legislature had the Association of Vermont Independent Colleges set up an agreement with its member schools to house student records if a school went out of business.

Vermont legislators last year considered requiring that a school placed on probation for financial reasons by its accrediting agency inform the state of its status and submit a plan for student records, setting money aside if necessary. That bill did not pass but lawmakers hope to take up similar language this session.

Moody's Investor Service said in December the outlook for the U.S. higher education sector remains negative because of constrained tuition revenue growth.

## WORLD



DITA ALANGABA/AP

A guide stands near a basketball shoe display at the Ryuwon Shoe Factory that specializes in sports footwear, in Pyongyang, North Korea. North Korean pop culture is getting a major upgrade.

# A cultural revolution

N. Korean pop culture gets makeover under Kim Jong Un

By ERIC TALMADGE  
Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Dancers in hot pants. Factories pumping out Air Jordan look-alikes. TV dramas that are actually fun to watch.

North Korean pop culture, long dismissed by critics as a kitschy throwback to the dark days of Stalinism, is getting a major upgrade under leader Kim Jong Un.

The changes are being seen in everything from television dramas and animation programs to the variety and packaging of consumer goods, which have improved significantly under Kim. Whether it's a defensive attempt to keep up with South Korea or an indication that Kim is willing to embrace aspects of Western consumer culture that his predecessors might have viewed as suspiciously bourgeois isn't clear.

"The most important thing for us is to produce a product that suits the people's tastes," Kim Kyong Hui, of the Ryuwon Shoe Factory, told The Associated Press recently in the facility's showroom, which is filled with shoes for running, volleyball, soccer — even table tennis. "The respected leader Kim Jong Un has instructed us to closely study shoes from all over the world and learn from their example," she added, pointing to a pair of flame-red high-top basketball shoes.

To be sure, North Korea remains one of the most insular countries in the world. Change comes cautiously, and anyone who openly criticizes the government or leadership or is seen as a threat can expect severe repercussions. But there appears to be more of a willingness under Kim to experiment around some of the edges.

The most visible upgrades are on television and its normal menu of propaganda programs and documentaries in praise of the leaders. Viewers of the main state-run TV network — the only channel that can be seen anywhere in the country — are now stopping their routines to watch the latest episodes of "The Wild Ginseng Gatherers of the Imjin War," a historical drama set in the late 16th century, when Korea was struggling against a Japanese invasion.

The anti-Japan, nationalistic theme is nothing new. A similar theme was used for Kim Jong Un's first big contribution to the television lineup, an animated series reviving a popular comic from his

**'The most important thing for us is to produce a product that suits the people's tastes.'**

Kim Kyong Hui  
Ryuwon Shoe Factory in North Korea

father's era called "The Boy General" that made its debut in 2015. The animation, set in the Koguryo period when Korea was fighting off Chinese incursions, was such a hit that people would stop whatever they were doing to watch it. A Boy General game was created for mobile phones.

What the TV drama, first aired last July, and the Boy General animation share that's new is their high production values.

The acting in the movie is grittier and more compelling, the plots more engaging and the sets and costumes are decidedly more elaborate than in previous projects. Even the dialogue spoken in Japanese by the villains, played by North Korean actors, is generally accurate, though delivered with a heavy North Korean accent.

The Boy General, meanwhile, makes skillful use of computer effects and is visually on par with some of the best animation in the world.

The improvements reflect awareness within Kim's regime that the North Korean public is increasingly familiar with foreign pop culture despite severe restrictions that make it impossible for most to travel abroad or freely experience foreign movies, music or books. That familiarity is particularly true of the North Korean elite, who are accustomed to seeing brand name products from Dior to Sony on the shelves of upscale stores in Pyongyang, the capital. Cheap knockoffs from China are common.

North Korea's "approach to the influx of foreign media has been to 'modernize' media production to provide an attractive and competitive product that caters to younger generations for whom older productions are no longer attractive," said Geoffrey See, the founder of the Choson Exchange, a Singapore-based nonprofit that supports change in North Korea through exposure to knowledge and information in business, entrepreneurship and law.

## Detention camp to reopen in Australia

By ROD MCGUIRK  
Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia — The Australian government said Wednesday it would reopen a mothballed island detention camp in anticipation of a new wave of asylum-seekers arriving by boat after Parliament passed legislation that would give sick asylum-seekers easier access to mainland hospitals.

The Christmas Island immigration detention camp, south of Jakarta, Indonesia, was a favorite target of smugglers who brought asylum-seekers from Asia, Africa and the Middle East in rickety boats from Indonesian ports before the trade virtually stopped in recent years.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said a security committee of his Cabinet agreed to reopen the camp on the advice of senior security officials.

The decision was made before the Senate passed legislation, 36-34, that would allow doctors instead of bureaucrats to decide which asylum-seekers on camps on the Pacific island nations of Papua New Guinea and Nauru can fly to Australia for hospital treatment.

Morrison's conservative government argues that the bill, passed 75-74 by the House of Representatives on Tuesday, will undermine Australia's tough refugee policy. The policy banishes asylum-seekers who attempt to reach Australia by boat to the Pacific island camps in a bid to deter other asylum-seekers.

"My job now is to ensure that the boats don't come," Morrison said. "My job now is to do everything in my power and the power of the government to ensure what the Parliament has done to weaken our border does not result in boats coming to Australia."



SUNDAY ALANGABA/AP

In Nigeria, officials are warning against outlandish fake news ahead of the country's presidential vote on Saturday.

## Nigeria battles fake news ahead of vote

By RODNEY MUHAMMUZA  
AND SAM OLUKOYA  
Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — In Nigeria, fake news has become so outlandish, yet widely believed, that the president recently felt compelled to declare that he had not died and been replaced by a Sudanese body double.

"It's (the) real me, I assure you," President Muhammadu Buhari said late last year to dispel the story that was viewed more than 500,000 times on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

The stakes are high in Nigeria ahead of Saturday's presidential vote marked by widespread discontent over unemployment, poverty and insecurity in some parts of the country. Officials warn that fake or outdated pictures depicting communal violence trigger retaliatory killings.

Many were killed in reprisal

killings sparked by horrific, but false, photos purporting to depict deaths in the conflict between herdsmen and farmers in central Nigeria last year, said Tolu Ogunlesi, a media assistant to Nigeria's president.

"Fake news kills people. We have seen a lot of things like that," he said. "Some of the deadly clashes in Nigeria were sparked off by fake news."

Africa's most populous country is so awash in falsehoods posted on Twitter, Facebook and YouTube that 16 media outlets have been collaborating on a fact checking initiative, CrossCheck Nigeria.

Some of the stories CrossCheck Nigeria recently discredited include allegations the first lady wants Nigerians to vote against her husband, as well as a suggestion that U.S. President Donald Trump endorsed opposition candidate Atiku Abubakar.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police recover rare monkey stolen from zoo

**FL** WEST PALM BEACH — Police in Florida have found Kali, a 12-year-old rare monkey stolen from the Palm Beach Zoo.

West Palm Beach police said on Twitter on Wednesday morning that "Kali is home!"

Zoo President and CEO Margo McKnight said in a news release that detectives brought the Goeldi's monkey back to the zoo just before midnight and that she appeared to be in good condition.

A zookeeper discovered the monkey missing early Monday. Surveillance video showed a person walking on the zoo's perimeter about that same time.

## Argument over music leads to fatal stabbing

**MA** NEW BEDFORD — Authorities said a dispute over the volume of music led to a fatal stabbing inside a Massachusetts home.

The Standard-Times reported that William Macomber was held without bail after pleading not guilty to murder at his arraignment Monday.

Police allege Macomber, 55, stabbed Steven Doyle, 27, in the New Bedford home where they both rented rooms just after midnight Sunday. Police said the men got into a fight because Macomber was trying to sleep and complained that Doyle was playing music too loud.

Macomber claimed self-defense, saying he was in his room when Doyle kicked in the door and began to attack him.

## Officer rescues doe trapped in storm drain

**KS** OLATHE — Authorities said a doe was rescued after being found trapped in a storm drain in suburban Kansas City.

Police in Olathe said in a Facebook post that someone saw the animal Saturday while walking a dog. The post described the doe as "very agitated and in distress." The department estimated it had been in the hole for about a week.

A video shows an animal control officer reaching a long pole with a loop on the end into the open manhole and pulling out the doe. After emerging, the doe bounds into a wooded area.

## Newborn found on road in frigid temperatures

**CA** MADERA — A newborn girl with her umbilical cord still attached was found by a newspaper carrier in the middle of a rural road before dawn in near-freezing temperatures.

Authorities are seeking the mother.

Sheriff's officials said a man walking at about 4:30 a.m. Monday was approached by a woman in a white SUV who asked him to take her baby. He refused and suggested she take the newborn to a fire station or hospital.

ESPN-TV reported that the hours-old baby was wearing only

## THE CENSUS

# \$100K

The approximate amount a Connecticut man is accused of embezzling from a casino restaurant where he worked as an assistant manager. Adam Johnson, 43, made an initial court appearance Monday at which his public defender entered a not guilty plea to a charge of first-degree larceny. Johnson was fired from his job at Ballo Italian Restaurant in Mohegan Sun when the alleged thefts came to light. Tribal police alleged that over a three-year period, Johnson would void items on bills that had been paid in cash, then pocket the difference.



WARREN RUDA, THE (WILKES-BARRE, PA.) CITIZENS' VOICE/AP

## Walls come tumbling down

St. Joseph's Church in Nanticoke, Pa., is demolished Monday. The Scranton Diocese decided to tear down the church after failed attempts to sell the building, which has been vacant since May 2010. The church closed as part of the Catholic church's consolidation.

a onesie when the newspaper carrier, Aurelio Fuentes, found her a short time later.

The child was hospitalized in good condition and is expected to fully recover.

## 4 charged for drawing penises on photos

**FL** MIAMI — Four fired Miami firefighters were charged with criminal mischief for their roles in drawing penises on another firefighter's family photos.

The case drew national attention because a noose was also found at the scene, just as Hurricane Irma was bearing down on Florida in September 2017.

The Miami Herald reported that none of the men are being charged in connection with the noose, which was placed over the framed family photos belonging to Robert S. Webster, a black firefighter. That's because detectives never proved who placed the noose there or why.

The ex-firefighters are Harold Santana, Kevin Meizoso, Justin Rumbaugh and Alejandro Sese.

## Police: Man built pipe bombs in his home

**NJ** MIDDLESEX — Police in New Jersey said a man faces charges of detonating a bomb and having bombs in his home.

Police said Joseph Colucci, 59, admitted to police that he detonated a pipe bomb near a bridge in Middlesex on Oct. 18, 2017. NJ.com reported the detonation resulted in a cloud of smoke and an explosion noise that prompted residents to call police.

The Middlesex County Prosecu-

tor's Office said police were at Colucci's home for an "emergency aid call" when they spoke to the suspect and discovered two pipe bombs and bomb-making material including gun powder.

## World's oldest known wild bird hatches chick

**HI** HONOLULU — Federal wildlife officials said the world's oldest known wild bird has become a mother again at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported the Laysan albatross named Wisdom hatched a chick earlier this month at the atoll northwest of Hawaii.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials said Wisdom is at least 68 years old and has raised at least 31 chicks.

Wisdom and her mate, Akeakamai, have been returning to the atoll to lay and hatch eggs since 2006. Laysan albatrosses mate for life and lay one egg per year.

## Mom scouting date for son draws campus ire

**MD** TOWSON — It's almost Valentine's Day, and at Towson University in Maryland, a mother has been trying so hard to find a date for her son that police are concerned.

The Baltimore Sun reported that a woman in her 50s wearing a multicolored scarf approached students in two campus buildings last week, showing them a picture on her cellphone and asking if they would date her son.

After receiving multiple complaints from the mother's picks, campus police issued an "incident advisory" that included a link to pictures of the woman so she might be identified.

University officials said the woman isn't being sought for a criminal investigation but they do want the third-party propositioning to stop.

## Officials: Most birds survived business fire

**SC** AWENDAW — Fire officials said most of the exotic birds survived when a blaze started at a bird breeding business on the South Carolina coast.

News outlets reported the fire was reported at Delorco's Bird Barn in Awendaw about 25 miles northeast of Charleston.

Awendaw-McClellanville Fire Battalion Chief Michael Bowers said there were between 200 and 400 birds in the building when the fire started.

The owner told reporters that some birds had died in the fire.

Bowers said most of the birds were in good condition and were being helped by Animal Protective Service officers.

From wire reports



## FACES



Marvel Studios

Michael B. Jordan and Chadwick Boseman appear in a scene from "Black Panther." A study conducted by USC's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative showed that 28 hit movies featured a lead or co-lead from an underrepresented racial/ethnic group in 2018.

# Study says women, people of color led 2018 movies in record numbers

BY ASHLEY LEE  
Los Angeles Times

"Show them who we are," said the titular superhero in the hit Marvel movie "Black Panther." The same can be said of underrepresented communities in 2018's top films, as new data shows that last year's biggest movies starred more women and people of color than in any other year since 2007.

According to research released Tuesday, diversity and inclusion took the lead in record numbers across the 100 top-grossing films released in 2018. The study — conducted by USC's Annenberg Inclusion Initiative — examined the gender and race/ethnicity of each movie's leading and co-leading characters.

"It is encouraging that 2018 brought a 12-year high in the number of films with a female lead or co-lead driving the action," said Stacy L. Smith, founder and director of the initiative in a statement Tuesday. "Perhaps

most notably, we witnessed gains for women of color as leads or co-leads."

The findings were compared to the top-grossing films released annually since 2007, when the initiative began tracking representation onscreen.

In 2018, a record 28 hit movies featured a lead or co-lead from an underrepresented racial/ethnic group. That's up from 21 movies in 2017 and 13 in 2007.

Female representation was also up, as 40 of 2018's top films featured a female in the lead or a co-lead role. That's also an increase from 2017 (32 movies) and 2007 (20).

Intersectional inclusion also saw an uptick: Eleven of the year's top films featured a female lead or co-lead from an underrepresented racial/ethnic group (compared with four in 2017). Eleven films also starred women over the age of 44 (up from five in 2017).

It's no coincidence that 2018 broke records

not only in diverse representation onscreen but also in box-office grosses. Last year's movie ticket sales in the U.S. and Canada soared to \$11.8 billion, a growth of 6 percent from the previous year and above the previous record of \$11.4 billion in 2016. (This correlates to a previous study from another research group, which found that movies starring women make more money than those starring men.)

"2018 offers hope that industry members have taken action to create content that better reflects the world in which we live, and the box office seems to have rewarded them for it," Smith of the Annenberg Inclusion Initiative said in Tuesday's statement.

"This data shows us that it is possible for change to be achieved — companies must not grow complacent but continue the progress they have made in 2019 and in the years to come."

## Lawyer: 21 Savage granted immigration bond

Associated Press

Grammy-nominated rapper 21 Savage was granted bond for release Tuesday after spending more than a week in federal immigration custody, but he wasn't freed right away, his lawyer said.

The rapper, whose given name is She'ya Bin Abraham-Joseph, was arrested during a targeted immigration operation early on Feb. 3. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials said at the time that the British citizen had overstayed his visa and had a felony conviction.

Abraham-Joseph, 26, was granted bond too late Tuesday to be released right away, immigration lawyer Charles Kuck said by phone, adding that he anticipated his client would be released Wednesday.



21 Savage

### Other news

■ The makers of "Fortnite" have asked a federal judge to throw out a lawsuit from a rapper who says the video game is illegally using a dance he created. Epic Games filed the motion Monday to dismiss the lawsuit filed in December by 2 Milly, a Brooklyn-based rapper whose real name is Terrence Ferguson. He alleges that "Fortnite" uses the "Milly Rock," a dance he came up with in 2011 that became popular after a 2015 song and video.

■ Stevie Wonder jammed with his harmonica, John Legend crooned while playing the piano and Ciara pranced onstage dressed like Rick James on Tuesday night as Motown Records celebrated its 60th anniversary concert with a concert at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles on Tuesday night. "Motown 60: A Grammy Celebration,"

hosted by Smokey Robinson and Cedric the Entertainer, will air April 21 on CBS.

■ Katy Perry's fashion line pulled two types of shoes after some people complained to blackface. The Ora Face Black Heel and Rue Face Slip-On Loafers were released last summer in nine colors. They included protruding eyes, nose and red lips. In a statement released Tuesday by the singer and company, they said the shoes were "envisioned as a nod to modern art and surrealism."

■ NBC said Tuesday that the late-night show "Last Call with Carson Daly" will end after 17 years. In a statement, Daly said it's time to hand over the show's 1:30 a.m. Eastern time slot and try something new within NBCUniversal. He will remain a host and producer on NBC's "The Voice" and continue hosting a segment on the network's "Today." A date for the final episode of "Last Call" was not announced.

## Grandmaster Flash among winners of Polar Music Prize

American rapper/ DJ Grandmaster Flash, German violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter and international music charity Playing for Change Foundation on Wednesday won Sweden's Polar Music Prizes for 2019.

The award panel said Grandmaster Flash, born Joseph Sadler, is "rightly heralded as a hip-hop virtuoso," and "one of the first to manipulate music by placing his fingers on the vinyl."

It cited Grammy Award-winning Mutter for being "a musical phenomenon," playing with "virtuosity and astonishing clarity."

The panel said the Playing For Change Foundation, which runs music programs in developing countries, brings "peace to the world through music."

The winners will each receive a cash prize of 1 million kronor (\$107,000). The award ceremony is in Stockholm on June 11.

The award, founded in 1989 by the late Stig Anderson, manager of Swedish pop group ABBA, has been handed out every year since 1992.

Often called the Nobel Prize of music, it is Sweden's biggest music award and is typically shared by a pop artist and a classical musician.

From The Associated Press

## 'Empire' star insists he has cooperated

Actor Jussie Smollett on Tuesday dismissed any suggestion that he has been less than cooperative with police since the star of the "Empire" television drama reported he was attacked by two masked men in Chicago last month.

Smollett's representatives issued a statement a day after police said they had heavily redacted phone records he turned over to detectives this week were insufficient for a criminal investigation.

"Jussie is the victim here, which has been stated by the Superintendent of Police," Smollett said. "Jussie has voluntarily provided his phone records from within an hour of the attack and given multiple statements to police."

The statement said Smollett had a good reason for turning over what police called a redacted file.

"Any redacted information was intended to protect the privacy of personal contacts or high-profile individuals not relevant to the attack," according to the statement.

The statement is the latest in a back-and-forth between Smollett and police since he reported the attack took place on Jan. 29. Police have made no arrests and said they have found no surveillance video that shows the attack.

Smollett, who is black and openly gay, told police that his attackers doused him with an unknown chemical substance, shouted racial and homophobic slurs at him before hoping what police said was a thin rope tied like a noose around his neck.

From The Associated Press

## BUSINESS/WEATHER

# T-Mobile, Sprint to defend merger to lawmakers

By MARCY GORDON  
AND TALİ ARBEL  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With their \$26.5 billion merger hanging in the balance, top executives of T-Mobile and Sprint are taking their case to Congress, arguing that joining their companies won't hurt competition or jack up consumer prices for wireless service.

But they're likely to face a skeptical audience at a hearing Wednesday.

The deal, which must win approval from federal regulators, would combine the nation's third- and fourth-largest wireless companies, creating a new behemoth roughly the size of industry giants



Executives of T-Mobile and Sprint are making the case to Congress that their proposed \$26.5 billion merger wouldn't hurt competition or increase the cost of wireless service.

Verizon and AT&T.

Complicating their task is the fact that urban consumers are paying 22 percent less for cell-phone service following AT&T's failed bid to acquire T-Mobile in 2011, a combination rejected by



BERETO MATTHEWS/AP

federal regulators as anticompetitive. That data comes from the Bureau of Labor Statistics price index for wireless service.

T-Mobile subsequently launched aggressive promotions and made consumer-friendly

changes such as ditching two-year contracts and bringing back unlimited data plans, moves that its rivals soon copied. Merger opponents claim those benefits will disappear if T-Mobile and Sprint no longer compete against one another. Unions have voiced concerns about potential job losses.

T-Mobile and Sprint said American consumers would get more and pay less as a result of the merger.

They argue that the combination would allow them to better compete — not only with Verizon and AT&T, but also with Comcast and others.

The merger would give the new company "the added scale and critical spectrum and network assets to supercharge our 'Un-

carrier' philosophy," T-Mobile US CEO John Legere said in his prepared testimony for the House hearing. "As a result, we can take competition to new levels. We will offer a much faster, broader and deeper network and new services at lower prices."

Legere and Marcelo Claure, Sprint Corp.'s executive chairman, were scheduled to appear on Wednesday before the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on communications and technology.

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 14)	\$1.1604
Dollar buys (Feb. 14)	€0.8618
British pound (Feb. 14)	\$1.32
Japanese yen (Feb. 14)	¥100.00
South Korean won (Feb. 14)	₩1,094.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.2905
Canada (Dollar)	1.3228
China (Yuan)	¥6.7627
Denmark (Krone)	6.6044
Egypt (Pound)	17.5850
Euro	\$1.1298/0.8851
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8490
Hungary (Forint)	281.61
Israel (Shekel)	3.6445
Japan (Yen)	110.82
Kuwait (Dinar)	4.3038
Norway (Krone)	6.8389
Philippines (Peso)	52.14
Poland (Zloty)	3.83
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3571
South Korea (Won)	1,123.10
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0962
Thailand (Baht)	31.32
Turkey (Lira)	5.2605

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For noncheck currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	40
3-month bill	2.41
30-year bond	3.02

## 40 countries, but not US, agree on automatic braking

By JAMEY KEATEN  
Associated Press

GENEVA — Forty countries led by Japan and the European Union — but not the U.S. or China — have agreed to require new cars and light commercial vehicles to be equipped with automated braking systems starting as soon as next year, a U.N. agency said Tuesday.

The regulation will require all vehicles sold to come equipped with the technology by which sensors monitor how close a pedestrian or object might be. The system can trigger the brakes automatically if a collision is deemed imminent and if the driver doesn't appear set to respond in time.

The measure will apply to vehicles at "low speeds": 42 mph or less, and affects only new cars

sold in the markets of signatory countries — so vehicle owners won't be required to retrofit their cars and trucks already on the roads today.

The United States, China and India are members of the U.N. forum that adopted the new regulations.

However, they did not take part in the negotiations because they want to ensure that their national regulations keep precedence over U.N. rules when it comes to the auto industry.

In 2016, 20 automakers reached an agreement with the U.S. government to put automatic emergency braking on all new vehicles by September 2022, but compliance is voluntary.

In the most recent report on the safety technology from 2017, the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration said that four of the 20 automakers — Tesla, Mercedes-Benz, Toyota and Volvo — had made automatic braking standard on more than half their models.

Data from the insurance industry's Highway Loss Data Institute show that 28 percent of 2019 U.S. models have standard automatic emergency braking. Another 36 percent have it as an option.

Jason Levine, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety, said lack of U.S. participation in the U.N. group is embarrassing for a country that once led in auto safety.

"It is yet another indication of the auto industry in the United States and the Trump administration's complete lack of leadership when it comes to the safety of everyone on the road," Levine

said Tuesday.

The requirement will start taking effect next year first in Japan, where 4 million cars and light commercial vehicles were sold in 2018, said Jean Rodriguez, the spokesman for the agency, called United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, or UNECE.

## MARKET WATCH

Feb. 12, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	372.65
	25,425.76
Nasdaq composite	106.71
	7,414.62
Standard & Poor's 500	34.93
	2,744.73
Russell 2000	19.25
	1,538.23

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



# Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

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*For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations*



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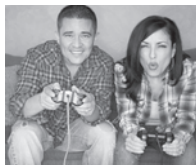
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## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leonard.terry@stripes.com  
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stripes.com  
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
croley.tina@stripes.com  
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stripes.com  
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

**Europe/Mideast**  
Enik Bence, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.enik@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (31)583.9350  
**Pacific**  
Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (31)5227.380  
**Washington**  
Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com  
+1(202)886-0033  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stripes.com  
**CIRCULATION**  
Robert Reismann, Mideast Circulation Manager  
robert.w.reismann.na@gmail.com  
na@stripes.com  
DSN (31)583-9111  
**Europe**  
Enik Bence, Europe@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9111; DSN (31)583.9111  
**Pacific**  
Mark Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com  
+81-3 5385.3171; DSN (31)5229.3171

## CONTACT US

**Washington**  
Tel: +1(202) 886-0005  
633 3rd St NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050  
**Reader letters**  
letters@stripes.com

**Additional contacts**  
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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly, days (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-45002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AF 96301-45002.

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## OPINION

## What Reagan would advise on arms control

By VICTORIA NULAND  
Special to The Washington Post

The Trump administration's decision to withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty after a decade of Russian violations feels satisfying and fair — they cheat, we stop playing. But is this our best option?

U.S. withdrawal from the INF Treaty will leave U.S. military installations in Europe and our NATO allies more vulnerable to Russian nuclear blackmail, at least until we can develop and deploy our own systems to deter Moscow. Rather than rip up the treaty that makes Russian deployment illegal, the United States should take a page from President Ronald Reagan's 1980s playbook. We should buy time through negotiations to develop and deploy our own countermeasures in Europe while offering Moscow a treaty that meets our shared security needs: countering the growing missile threat from China that the INF Treaty didn't foresee.

In the early 1980s, European allies supported Reagan's request to host U.S. medium-range Pershing II missiles on their territory to counter Soviet SS-20s. The move was widely unpopular, more than 1 million West Germans staged street protests. Very quickly, however, the Pershing II brought Moscow to the negotiating table. The resulting INF Treaty bound the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate all land-based cruise missiles with ranges of about 310 to 3,500 miles and limit the future deployment by Moscow or Washington anywhere in the world.

Just 20 years later, however, a resurgent Russia under Vladimir Putin had second thoughts. By 2007, Putin was pushing President George W. Bush to reconsider the INF Treaty, claiming that Russia from superior U.S. conventional weapons and the growing nuclear prowess of China,

Iran, North Korea and India. In 2013, Putin lamented that "almost all our neighbors" were developing medium-range nuclear weapons. By then, Moscow had been covertly developing the 9M729 missile — a nuclear-capable cruise missile that can threaten Warsaw, Paris or Berlin — for five years.

The Trump administration came to office agreeing with Putin about the INF Treaty's constraints. Beijing, which is not bound by the INF, had used the intervening years to build its own intermediate-range missile program, developing a growing capability to threaten U.S. bases and allies in Asia.

Currently, the U.S. counts on conventional superiority or the threat of a massive, long-range nuclear counterstrike on the Chinese to check Beijing. Free of the constraints of the INF Treaty, however, Washington could ask China's neighbors to host medium-range, lower-yield land-based nuclear systems, giving our deterrence posture more flexibility and credibility.

The administration, therefore, saw the death of the INF Treaty as a win-win. Moscow would get blamed for violating the treaty while the United States would be free to build medium-range nuclear weapons to deter China.

But what about Europe? Russia has a 10-year head start on us in developing and deploying lower-yield, medium-range nuclear weapons. The demise of the treaty would legitimize Moscow's greater dependence on these weapons, allow their overt deployment and make the threat future nuclear certainty in any high-stakes conflict in Europe.

Some administration defenders assert that U.S. conventional dominance and NATO nuclear air and sea power would deter Moscow from using intermediate-range nuclear weapons. But that logic also is set to develop new low-yield nuclear weapons and more missile defense systems

to neutralize any threat from the Kremlin. Yet a surprise Russian attack on the Baltic states or Poland would be far harder for NATO forces to drive back if Moscow had the ability to threaten Berlin, Warsaw and Paris with a limited nuclear strike. Moscow might just take that gamble if it judged that the U.S. and NATO, with no limited nuclear counterstrike options of their own, would be unlikely or unwilling to unleash a massive, high-yield nuclear strike on Russia in response.

Given these ugly options, it makes sense for us to invest more diplomatic muscle and time to keep Russia out of the intermediate-range nuclear business in Europe, and instead propose a grand bargain to deter China. Rather than ditching the INF Treaty, we could offer to revise it to apply only to the European landmass west of the Ural Mountains. Russia would be allowed to deploy its 9M729 missiles beyond the range of our European or Asian allies, subject to tight human and technical monitoring.

We, in turn, would deploy our own intermediate-range nuclear systems on NATO territory, and we would allow Russia reciprocal inspection of our deployments to deter China.

This kind of aggressive verification would be difficult to negotiate and technically challenging. It would, however, offer Moscow the opportunity to prove its new systems are not a threat to Europe and join us in deterring common threats elsewhere. If Moscow failed to meet that test, we would be no worse off than we are today. Like Reagan, we would also have bought some time to strengthen our own deterrence, including persuading our allies to host new offensive and defensive systems, if necessary. That, in turn, could force the Kremlin and, perhaps Beijing, to the negotiating table.

Victoria Nuland is a former assistant secretary of state for European and Eurasian Affairs.

## Twitter's influence on politics is just getting started

By TYLER COWEN  
Bloomberg Opinion

The latest political controversy involves a ban on Omar tweeting and insinuating that American political support for Israel is driven by Jewish money and lobbying. Leaving aside her views for now, the general trend is striking: Social media is allowing individual politicians to further their own careers at the expense of their public reputation. The result is that U.S. politics is quickly changing into a parade of celebrities.

Put yourself in Omar's shoes. You are a freshman representative in a group of 435. Most of your cohort will never receive national recognition, and as a Muslim woman, perhaps your job on the seat is not entirely secure. You will probably never run for president, or even Senate, so your future is not tied very closely to that of the Democratic Party.

At some point you realize that if you tweet about Israel, you will get attention. You probably believe in what you are saying, and you think your opinions will contribute to the dialogue. But the tweets will also make you a national celebrity. That may help your future ability to get a book contract, hit the lecture circuit, or join a lobbying or nonprofit firm. Even if most Americans find your views objectionable, there will be a place for you in a country this large, wealthy and diverse.

I have found that when people perceive their self-interest and sense of morality to be in harmony, they are very likely to act in accordance with them.

And so it came to pass. Omar started tweeting about Israel, later tweeted a pol-

ematic remark about "Benjamins," people were offended and accused her of anti-Semitism, and she has since apologized. But don't be too distracted by the apology. She definitely got people talking about one of her preferred issues, and she raised her profile significantly. And she hasn't withdrawn her main point.

Of course, it is the Democratic Party that ends up looking bad. For one thing, most Americans are pro-Israel. Even if the tweets had been less controversial, the move to ban her would have exposed more fissures in the Democratic coalition than among Republicans.

Or consider Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, arguably a genius on social media. She is attracting more attention than most (all?) of the Democratic presidential candidates, and now has more than 3 million Twitter followers. She has been setting the Democratic agenda on tax and environmental policy, and spurring a general sense among primary voters that the party ought to be moving farther to the political left.

But is this a good for the Democratic Party? The Twitter spin would be that she is revitalizing debate in the party and giving it greater appeal to the young. The negative spin is that she is pushing the primary candidates too far to the left, and making them look tired and stale compared to her energy and innovativeness. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's response to the Green New Deal idea was striking: "It will be one of several or maybe many suggestions that we receive. The green dream, or whatever they call it, nobody knows what it is, but they're for it, right?"

No matter what the final result may be, the upstarts have been empowered relative

to the establishment.

The true innovator in all of this, of course, is President Donald Trump. He used Twitter to help himself get elected, at the expense of the traditional view of what the Republican Party should be.

The trend will almost certainly continue and intensify. Most politicians do not have excellent social media skills, but many will try to get noticed and have an impact (or at least hire staff members who will). As more politicians up their game on social media, more of these attempts will hit home. Ocasio-Cortez will have competition. The influence and reach of political celebrities will grow stronger, and the parties will become weaker yet.

This may be a more important trend than what is sometimes called political polarization. But what does this new, more intense celebrity culture mean for actual outcomes? The more power and influence the private communications world exerts on public opinion, the harder it will be for a sitting president to get things done. (The best option, see above, will be to make your case and engage your adversaries on social media.) The harder it will be for an aspirant party to put forward a coherent, predictable and actionable political program.

Finally, the more influence the private press on social media will become the more important ones. Technocratic dreams will fade, and fiery rhetoric and identity politics will rule the day. And if you think this is the political world we're already living in, rest assured: It's just barely gotten started.

Tyler Cowen, a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

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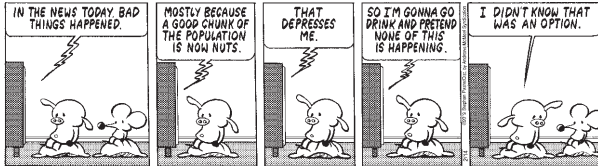
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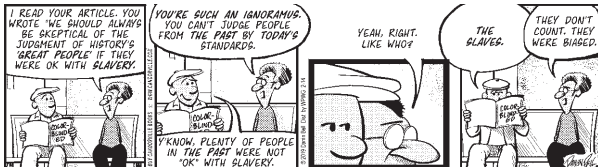
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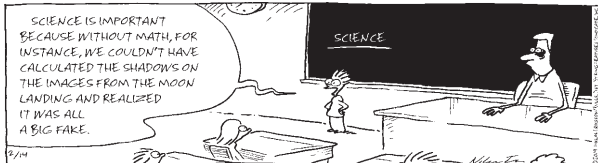
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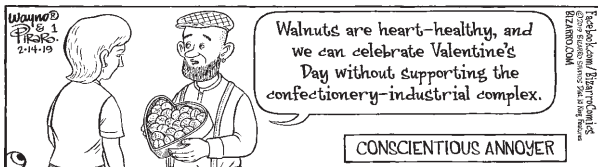
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20	21		
			22						23			
24	25	26			27	28	29			30	31	
32					33				34			
35			36	37					38			
			39					40	41			
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

### ACROSS

- 1 "Arrivederci —"
- 5 Jazzy style
- 8 Wild guess
- 12 Slender
- 13 Piercing tool
- 14 Brownish purple
- 15 In — veritas
- 16 Corp. boss
- 17 Desertlike
- 18 Nowheresville
- 20 Saint Patrick's Day event
- 22 Hide-hair insert
- 23 Nine-digit ID
- 24 Engrossed
- 27 Promptly
- 32 Wedding words
- 33 Expert
- 34 Granada gold
- 35 "Wonder Woman" actress
- 38 Remain
- 39 Beer barrel
- 40 Stolen
- 42 Alpine home
- 45 Casts out
- 49 Opera set in Egypt
- 50 Guffaw syllable
- 52 Lavish party
- 53 Espy
- 54 Reuben bread
- 55 Kismet

### DOWN

- 6 Sparkling Italian wine
- 7 German conjunction
- 8 Learn-to
- 21 Bat wood
- 24 Predetermine
- 25 Oklahoma city
- 26 Bikini pattern
- 28 Sgt., for one
- 29 Tied down
- 30 Mouths (Lat.)
- 31 Playpen item
- 36 Trattoria desserts
- 37 Candle count
- 38 Refuses to pay
- 41 Symbol of strength
- 42 Juanita's home
- 43 Swinging joints?
- 44 Drive — window
- 46 Wife of Jacob
- 47 Diminutive suffix
- 48 Burpee buy
- 51 Novelist Rand

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

S	I	M	I	T	A	B		S	W	A	G
O	M	E	N		I	R	E		W	A	L
W	H	I	T	E	S	E	A		U	R	G
S	O	N	A	R		K	A	N	S	A	S
				C	R	A	M		S	G	T
N	E	W	T		L	O	C	K		O	R
A	L	I		E	U	R	O	S		R	A
H	O	N		I	M	A	C		B	Y	T
			E	O	N		L	O	C	O	
M	I	S		U	S	E		O	N	T	A
A	H	S		W	E	N	T		S	O	L
I	G	O	T		E	V	A		A	S	A
L	O	P	S		R	E	P		I	S	I

### 2-14

### CRYPTOQUIP

RCQ IRWE LBFUHBA LWU W  
NATHTNWCCM TPXRAHWIH  
XGFCNTN ZTOGAB. EB'U W

QBZTTITIO IWPB TI ETUHRAM.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I ROUTINELY USE A PEPPER MILL ALMOST EVERY SINGLE EVENING AT SUPPERTIME. IT'S MY DAILY GRIND.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals L




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# SKIING

# Shiffrin takes over as new face of sport

## Cites tennis' Osaka as inspiration

By STEVE DOUGLAS  
Associated Press

**D**URING HER inexorable rise to someday becoming the most successful Alpine skier in history, Mikaela Shiffrin has been shooting some admiring glances at another young female athlete excelling at her chosen sport.

And she, too, is emerging from the shadow of an all-time great. "Somebody I've been watching lately, and I'm really excited for, is Naomi Osaka," Shiffrin said Tuesday. "I think that she at least seems like a really nice, down-to-earth girl, trying to do her job and coming up the ranks in a sport that has Serena Williams, the face of tennis."

"Watching Osaka and seeing how she handles herself competing against one of her biggest idols has been pretty cool for me to see."

While Osaka, the winner of the last two Grand Slam tennis tournaments and — at only 21 — the new No. 1 player in the world, is

just starting on the long road to emulating Williams, Shiffrin is already close to eclipsing Lindsey Vonn's record-breaking exploits.

Fifty-six World Cup victories. Two Olympic gold medals. Four world championship golds, with possibly two more coming in Are, Sweden, this week. Shiffrin is on course to obliterate perhaps every skiing record in the book.

At 23, and with Vonn newly retired, Shiffrin is the face of skiing — whether she likes it or not.

"In my own head, I'm thinking about what I'm going to have for lunch. I'm not thinking, 'Oh, the face of ski racing,'" she said, laughing.

In Vonn's farewell news conference after concluding her show-stopping career with a bronze in the downhill on Sunday, she included Shiffrin when listing the ski racers she believes need to step up and promote the sport in the coming years.

"It's not just about success," Vonn said. "It's about doing everything you can to promote (skiing). That's a part of your job as



PONTUS LUNDAHL, TT/AP

**Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States competes Feb. 5 during the women's super-G at the alpine ski world championships in Are, Sweden. Shiffrin won the race and has two more races this week.**

an athlete."

Shiffrin is belatedly coming around to that train of thought, even though she says being a poster girl doesn't come naturally to her.

"I wouldn't say I'm the most self-confident person out there but I feel comfortable in my own skin and I certainly feel comfortable on my skis," said the American, who described herself as "naturally a fairly introverted personality."

"I would like to believe that just being a really kind person and a good athlete and having success is enough to promote the sport, but it's not really. There needs to be some drama, some excitement, some really big personalities. For me, maybe I'm growing into that."

This enhanced self-belief perhaps explains why Shiffrin felt emboldened to race only three events at the world championships, despite external pressure to go for gold in every discipline. She has already won the super-G

and has strong gold-medal chances in the giant slalom and slalom on Thursday and Saturday, respectively.

Her decision to skip last week's Alpine combined, in which she would have been the favorite, surprised Vonn and Bode Miller. Indeed, Vonn said she didn't understand it, saying Shiffrin had "100 percent the capability" of getting a medal in all five disciplines.

Back in Are after spending some days training across the border in Norway, Shiffrin expanded on a long and heartfelt Instagram post she posted in response to Vonn and Miller's comments.

"I wasn't disappointed. Actually I was really flattered," she said. "I was incredibly honored that two of the greatest athletes in our sport said that they thought I could win in all five events."

"The reason I made this post was because they both also said they thought essentially that I was wrong in making my decision and I have reasons that maybe

they didn't consider in making my decision."

Shiffrin said she has "paid too much attention to all the expectations of other people" in recent years.

"This year, it's been one of my goals to see that, to hear it, to understand it, and to let it go," she said.

It's an approach that was backed by Scandinavian ski greats Kjetil Andre Aamodt and Anja Paerson.

Aamodt, who won Olympic or world medals in all five disciplines during his career, called her decision "smart," while Paerson, who won five medals — including three golds — on home snow at the 2007 worlds in Are, said: "I love that she's taking her own way."

Certainly, Shiffrin has no regrets this week as she goes for her fifth and sixth world titles.

"I'm a little bit fresher going into these races," she said. "It almost feels like a second start to the world championships."



JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BOTT, KEYSTONE/AP

Whether she likes it or not, Mikaela Shiffrin will take over for Lindsey Vonn as the face of skiing. Shiffrin is already on pace to eclipse Vonn's record-breaking exploits as a skier.



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## Mets, deGrom set deadline for talks

Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — NL Cy Young Award winner Jacob deGrom wants to hear the New York Mets' best pitch on a multi-year contract by opening day — and the team thinks that's a good call, too.

New general manager Brodie Van Wagenen, who was deGrom's agent before switching sides at the bargaining table last fall, told reporters Tuesday at spring training there's "no reason for a distraction to carry into the regular season."

He said the club will continue discussions with deGrom this spring and see where they lead. That leaves about six weeks to get a deal done before the Mets' season opener March 28 at Washington.

However, the 30-year-old deGrom cannot become a free agent until after the 2020 season, so the sides could always reopen negotiations next offseason.

Last month, the Mets and deGrom agreed to a \$17 million, one-year contract to avoid arbitration — a raise of \$9.6 million over his 2018 salary.

Van Wagenen clarified Tuesday that he will indeed be involved in any talks with deGrom about a long-term deal. The rookie GM said he recused himself from the pitcher's arbitration negotiations to avoid a potential conflict of interest.

Mets pitchers and catchers will hold their first formal workout Thursday.

## Nola, Phillies agree to \$45M, 4-year deal

CLEARWATER, Fla. — Pitcher Aaron Nola and the Philadelphia Phillies have agreed to a \$45 million, four-year contract, avoiding a salary arbitration hearing scheduled for this week.

The 25-year-old right-hander set career bests last year when he was a first-time All-Star, going 17-6 with a 2.37 ERA. He would have been eligible for free agency after the 2021 season.

Under the deal announced Wednesday, Nola gets a \$2 million signing bonus, \$4 million this year, \$8 million in 2020, \$11.75 million in 2021 and \$15 million in 2022. Philadelphia has a \$16 million team option for 2023 with a \$4.25 million buyout.

## Raiders discuss playing in Coliseum in 2019

ALAMEDA, Calif. The Raiders have had their first talks about returning for one final season in Oakland since the city filed suit over the team's planned move to Las Vegas.

Oakland Coliseum executive director Scott McKibben said Tuesday that he met with Raiders president Marc Badain last week about a lease for 2019. McKibben

called the meeting "meaningful and productive" but gave no other details.

The two sides had been discussing a \$7.5 million lease for 2019 until the Raiders walked away from negotiations when Oakland sued the team and the NFL in December.

The Raiders have no lease for 2019, their final season before moving into a new \$1.8 billion, 65,000-seat stadium in Las Vegas. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell has said the team needs to make a decision soon so the league can make a schedule.

The Raiders had talks about sharing a stadium with the San Francisco Giants, but that was opposed by the 49ers. The Raiders also could look into sharing Levi's Stadium with the 49ers, although owner Mark Davis has been opposed to that option.

In other NFL news:

■ Mississippi State defensive lineman Jeffery Simmons tore the ACL in his left knee while working out in Florida last weekend.

The 6-foot-4, 300-pound Simmons, a potential first-round pick in April's NFL draft, released a statement on Twitter on Tuesday.

He said he was going through position drills while training in Boca Raton, Florida when the injury occurred.

He said he will have surgery early next week.

Simmons recently earned third-team AP All-America honors after finishing his junior season with 63 tackles, including 17 for a loss. He also had seven quarterback hurries.

Simmons was arrested before he came to Mississippi State in 2016 following a fight in which he was caught on video standing over a woman and punching her. He eventually was found guilty of malicious mischief and pleaded no contest to a simple assault charge.

## Pens' Malkin suspended 1 game for high stick

PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh Penguins center Evgeni Malkin has been suspended one game for high-sticking Philadelphia's Michael Raffl late in Pittsburgh's 4-1 win over the Flyers on Monday night.

The league announced the suspension on Tuesday following a hearing between Malkin and the league's department of player safety.

Raffl and Malkin were tangled up in the neutral zone in the third period with Raffl engaging Malkin physically while Raffl battled for the puck. When the two players broke apart, Raffl punched Malkin in the back of the head and Malkin retaliated by swinging his stick in Raffl's direction. Malkin received a 10-minute match penalty for the infraction.

The league called Malkin's swing "intentional."



TERRY RENNA/AP

Martin Truex Jr. looks at cars on the track before his turn during qualifying for the Daytona 500 on Sunday. Truex's Furniture Row Racing folded after last year, but he found a great new team with JGR.

## Truex finds solid footing

2017 Cup champ's team folded, but he lands in great spot with JGR

By DAN GELSTON

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Martin Truex Jr. was just one of many Philadelphia Eagles fans bummed when Nick Foles' pass deflected off a receiver and was intercepted to end a playoff push toward a second straight Super Bowl.

"They had a shot," Truex said. "Without that interception, I think they could have pulled it off." The Eagles were smacked with the same forlorn reality Truex suffered through only two months earlier — it's hard to win back-to-back championships. "Tell me about it," he said, laughing. "I was closer than they were, though."

Truex fell one spot short of winning his second consecutive NASCAR Cup championship in a determined bid to send Furniture Row Racing out a winner. Truex stayed in contention until the final laps in a season where one of his top sponsors abandoned him and his team was set to go out of business.

It was, Truex noted, "one of those years where you can't believe everything that was going on."

Truex — whose late-career metamorphosis from journeyman to champion was unprecedented in NASCAR history — had one heck of a landing spot when his team folded. He signed with perennial powerhouse Joe Gibbs Racing to round out the most fearsome foursome of talent in one shop: 2015 champ Kyle Busch, 2016 Daytona 500 winner Denny Hamlin and top prospect Erik Jones.

He didn't little time to get acquainted with his new team because of FRR's alliance with Gibbs that saw Truex operate as essentially a fifth car for JGR. As much as sponsor 5-hour Energy's defection crippled FRR, the defunct team noted at the time that "rising costs of continuing a team alliance" with Gibbs played a critical role.

With FRR gone, Gibbs ended up without a top competitor and its star driver completely in house.

"If you really looked at how we worked together before, I really feel like it's the same thing," Truex said. "It's just that I'm under their roof now instead of racing under a different name. We worked together, we shared information, we did debriefs together

the last three seasons. We raced hard, we had a lot of respect for each other."

Truex had 16 of his 19 career victories over the last three seasons and combined with Busch and Kevin Harvick to become a dominant "Big Three" that won 20 of 36 races in 2018. Truex and Busch routinely race for the championship in the finale (won in '18 by Joey Logano) and were entangled in a pair of duels up along the way. They wrecked racing for the lead in the 2017 Brickyard 400 and Busch spun out Truex at Bristol last season.

Truex, who replaced Daniel Suarez in the No. 19 Toyota, said the drivers can all get along.

"We didn't hold anything back," Truex said. "We didn't try to not help the other guy because we knew we were racing each other. We did all we could to help each other be the best we could be during the week. When the green flag dropped, we raced as hard as anybody else. I don't think that will change."

Truex has a few familiar faces joining him at JGR. Canadian Cole Pearn, who quarterbacked Truex's career renaissance, is still calling the shots as crew chief. Truex's FRR car chief and a handful of team members also made the move out of the single-car shop in Denver to NASCAR's Charlotte-area hub. Gibbs said Pearn and Truex "both make us stronger as an organization."

Perhaps at JGR Truex can knock off one major achievement missing on his resume. He is 0-for-14 in the Daytona 500 and was runner-up to Denny Hamlin in the closest finish in race history in 2016.

No matter the team, Truex is adept at following Pearn's orders, from the pit box to the penalty box. At a recent stop at a Philadelphia Flyers game, Truex said his crew chief had one directive:

"Whatever you do, get your picture with Gritty," Truex said of Pearn's request.

Truex got his photo up with the googly-eyed Flyers mascot. Gritty clapped his squeaky paws after he presented Truex with a No. 19 Flyers jersey. The duo danced for the big screen and took turns playfully stroking each other's beards.

It was a needed dose of fun to ease the heartbreak of a runner-up finish a year ago. "As time goes on, it stings more," Truex said. "You realize the position you were in, the opportunity that was presented. Just the fact the way the sport is now, how hard it is to get back there."

He expects to race for the Cup title again — and win it for JGR.

"They're known for winning races and championships," Truex said. "I'm ready to hold up my end of the deal and see how it goes."

## NFL



CHRIS SWEDA, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/TNS

Former MLB player Bo Jackson is announced as the 1993 American League West Division Championship White Sox team was honored before a game in Chicago in July. Jackson was an All-Star with the Royals in 1989 and made the NFL Pro Bowl with the Los Angeles Raiders in 1990.

## Effect: Multi-sport stars need unique talent, intellect

### FROM BACK PAGE

"Athletes like him (Murray) come around once in a long time, with that athletic ability and been doing it for that long," Westenberg said. "How many Deion Sanders have there been? You can name the Bo Jacksons, the Deion Sanderses — you can name those guys on one hand. So it's not that all of a sudden you tell a kid to play multiple sports and you're going to get to that of Tyler Murrays and Deion Sanderses."

And having options comes with complications and questions. In 1992, Sanders played cornerback for the Atlanta Falcons during the day in Miami, then flew to Pittsburgh to join his Atlanta Braves teammates for a National League Championship Series game. Sanders looked back at that day during an ESPN documentary called "Deion's Double Play."

Sanders' true love was football, and it was his focus. He is in the Pro Football Hall of Fame and had a productive baseball career, but he offered a glimpse of what might have been during the 1992 World Series, when he hit .533 with four runs, eight hits and two doubles in four games.

"I regret often that I didn't put a lot more into the game of baseball," Sanders said. "I really do. I have those thoughts often."

Oklahoma baseball coach Skip Johnson said being special in both sports requires brains, too. Murray said he has been clocked at 4.3 seconds in the 40-yard dash, yet Johnson said his unusually high intellect is what allowed him to progress in both sports.

"To have the thought process that Tyler has, to go through the things that he has, to learn (Oklahoma football coach) Lincoln Riley's system, to learn our system in baseball — it just goes to show you what kind of aptitude that guy has as an athlete," Johnson said.

Dr. Mininder Kochar, a professor at Harvard Medical School



GEORGE BRIDGES/TNS

**Deion Sanders, shown here playing for the Ravens in 2004, made the Pro Football Hall of Fame and said he regrets not putting more into baseball, which he played part-time for nine years.**

and associate director of the Division of Sports Medicine at Boston Children's Hospital, has contributed to research that shows youth sports specialization is on the rise. He said the fact that Murray played both football and baseball for so long might have helped him excel in both.

"On one hand, he clearly is sort of a unique athlete — maybe genetically or maybe just intrinsic athleticism that he can be so good at two different sports," Kochar said. "Some of that might just be a blip, that he's that good of an athlete. Part of it is that there are transferable skills. It's good for the body to be doing different sports because you're not doing the same movement patterns over and over and over again."

Murray's success makes Johnson more than willing to look for more multi-sport superstars. Last season, Murray hit .296, had a .556 slugging percentage and hit 10 home runs in 189 at bats for the Sooners.

"There's more athletes out there that can do the same thing," Johnson said.

# Flacco headed to Denver

Source: Ravens dealing QB to Broncos for fourth-round draft pick

By JONAS SHAFFER  
The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — The Ravens have reportedly agreed in principle to trade longtime starting quarterback Joe Flacco to the Denver Broncos, according to ESPN.

Terms of the deal have not been announced, but ESPN reported the trade would be for a mid-round draft pick. Transactions cannot be officially completed until March 13. The trade would be the first significant move of Eric DeCosta's tenure as Ravens general manager.

Flacco, 34, started 163 regular-season games for the Ravens, passing for 38,245 yards, 212 touchdowns and 136 interceptions as he oversaw the franchise's winningest era. The Ravens won at least eight games in every season in which he started all 16 games and appeared in the playoffs seven times, winning Super Bowl XLVIII at the end of the 2012 season.

But Flacco was hurt midway through last season and ultimately lost his job to rookie Lamar Jackson, who helped lead the team to its first playoff appearance since 2014 and first AFC North title since 2012. After the season, the Ravens announced that Jackson would be their quarterback of the future and that they intended to release or trade Flacco, who's owed \$18.5 million next year on a contract that runs through 2021.

The Ravens would create \$10.5 million in cap space and incur \$16 million in dead money by trading Flacco. If it's designated as a post-June 1 trade, the Ravens would incur just \$8 million in dead money and save \$18.5 million for next season.

With a trade to Denver, Flacco would return to the site of his most memorable performance and in-



NICK WASS/AP

**Ravens quarterbacks Lamar Jackson, right, and Joe Flacco walk onto the field on Jan. 6. A person with knowledge of the trade told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the Denver Broncos have agreed to acquire Flacco in exchange for a fourth-round pick in this year's NFL Draft.**

stantly assume control of the Broncos' starting job. In three games at Denver, Flacco completed 54.7 percent of his passes, averaged 270 yards per game, and had seven touchdowns and two interceptions.

His one win came in January 2013, when he threw a game-tying 70-yard touchdown pass to Jacoby Jones with under a minute left in regulation of a divisional-round playoff game. The Ravens later won in double overtime, 38-35, and claimed their second Super Bowl title less than a month later.

## Source: Brown seeks trade

By WILL GRAVES  
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers still haven't decided whether there's a path for wayward wide receiver Antonio Brown to return in 2019.

Not that it matters to Brown. He's already made up his mind.

A person with knowledge of the situation tells The Associated Press the perennial Pro Bowler has formally asked the Steelers for a trade, the latest move in a game of brinkmanship by the 30-year-old designed to force Pittsburgh to move him by the start of training camp this summer.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to publicly discuss personnel matters.

Brown appeared to make his decision official in a social media post released on Instagram on Tuesday. The video includes highlights from Brown's career with the Steelers while lyrics from "Do What I Want" by rapper Lil Uzi Vert play in the background.

"SteelersNation thank you for nine big years!!!!" Brown wrote. "Time to move on and move forward."

The post came shortly after Brown was found guilty in absence on a charge of reckless driving in a suburban Pittsburgh court on Tuesday morning. Brown was charged in November for driving his black sports car



DON WRIGHT/AP

**Steelers wide receiver Antonio Brown has asked the team for a trade, according to a source who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not permitted to publicly discuss personnel matters.**

over 100 mph in a 45 mph zone. He paid a \$426.77 fine. Brown did not attend Tuesday's hearing.

Brown still has three years remaining on the \$72 million contract he signed in the spring of 2017, and remains one of the most dynamic performers in the league. He is the only player in NFL history with six consecutive 100-catch seasons and he hauled in 104 receptions for 1,297 yards and a franchise-record 15 touch-

downs in 2018.

Still, Brown's behavior became increasingly erratic last fall. The nadir came before Pittsburgh's game against Cincinnati in Week 17. The team sent him home with an apparent leg injury on the Friday before the game and he failed to provide coach Mike Tomlin with an update until Sunday morning, when his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, let Tomlin know that Brown was available to play.

Tomlin opted to make Brown inactive and Brown did not show up to clean out his locker or conduct an exit interview with the coaching staff. He pulled out of the Pro Bowl with an injury and team president Art Rooney II indicated the team had been unable to make contact with Brown in the weeks after Pittsburgh finished 9-6-1 and failed to reach the playoffs.

Rooney, however, stressed last month he did not plan to "disparage" Brown and did not close the door on Brown's possible return. That still might be the case, whether Brown wants to come back or not.

There is no major rush with another month before the new league year begins, though Pittsburgh could work out the parameters of a deal by March 13. Brown's contract counts \$21.12 million in 2019, a number that inches north to \$23.62 if Brown receives a \$2.5 million roster bonus he's scheduled to receive on March 17.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

Duke center Marques Bolden, left, and Louisville forward Jordan Nwora vie for a rebound during the first half of Tuesday's game in Louisville, Ky. Duke rallied from 23 points down in the second half.

## Roundup

# Duke rallies from 23 down, tops Louisville

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Cam Reddish made a tying three-pointer with 1:28 left and the go-ahead free throws with 14 seconds remaining, helping No. 2 Duke overcome a 23-point second-half deficit to beat No. 16 Louisville 71-69 on Tuesday night.

After making two of 17 shots to open the second half, the Blue Devils (22-2, 10-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) got hot and shut down the Cardinals over the final 9:54.

"I think our mentality changed," Reddish said. "We didn't want to go home with a loss. We had to fight for Duke, just give it our all for the name on our chest."

Zion Williamson (27 points, 12 rebounds) ignored foul trouble and instead drew whistles in his favor, making eight of nine from the line before Reddish added a couple of threes in between free throws — the last two of which followed an official review of a play under Duke's basket.

Michigan coach John Beilein tried to tie it for Louisville (17-8, 8-4), but his jumper in the lane bounced off the rim and into Williamson's hands as the final seconds ticked off.

**Penn State 75, No. 6 Michigan 69:** Lamar Stevens scored 15 of his 26 points in the first half and grabbed 12 rebounds to lead the host Nittany Lions to an upset of the Wolverines.

Michigan coach John Beilein received back-to-back technical fouls and was ejected for arguing with officials as the teams entered the locker rooms after the first half.

**No. 10 Marquette 92, DePaul 73:** Markus Howard scored 36 points, Sam Hauser had 17 and the visiting Golden Eagles cruised by the Blue Demons.

Howard went 12-for-21 from the field and 8-for-10 at the free-throw line in another impressive performance. He has scored at least 30 points in four of his last five games.

**No. 11 Michigan State 67, No. 20 Wisconsin 59:** Cassius Winston scored 23 points to help the visiting Spartans beat the Badgers.

In doing so, the Michigan State (20-5, 11-3 Big Ten) star outdueled Wisconsin's Ethan Happ, who scored 20 points and grabbed 12 rebounds.

**No. 18 Kansas State 71, Texas 64:** Barry Brown and Xavier Sneed each scored 16 points, and the visiting Wildcats beat the Longhorns for their ninth straight Big 12 victory.

Three other Kansas State players scored in double figures: Dean Wade had 12 points, and Kamau Stokes and Makol Mawien had 11 apiece.

**No. 24 Maryland 70, No. 12 Purdue 56:** Jalen Smith scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half, and the host Terrapins used a strong defensive performance to end the Boilermakers' eight-game winning streak.

Down by eight at halftime, Maryland (19-6, 10-4 Big Ten) took the lead for the first time with 10 minutes left before pulling away. The comeback was fueled by Smith, Eric Alaya and fellow freshman Aaron Wiggins.

**No. 25 Buffalo 76, Akron 70:** CJ Massinburg scored 21 points, Dontay Caruthers added 15 and the visiting Bulls turned up their defensive intensity in the second half and held on, dropping the Zips to 0-31 against ranked teams.

Buffalo (21-3, 9-2 Mid-American Conference) was held to one of its lowest point totals this season, but the defending conference champion was able to do enough against Akron (14-10, 6-5), ranked 13th nationally in scoring defense.

**UNLV 77, Air Force 72:** Amauri Hardy had a career-high 24 points as the host Runnin' Rebels narrowly beat the Falcons.

Nick Blair had 13 points for UNLV (13-11, 7-5 Mountain West Conference). Lavelle Scottie had 25 points for Air Force (10-14, 5-7).

## LSU notches rare win over Kentucky

By KEITH TAYLOR

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — A tip-in at the buzzer by Kavell Bigby-Williams helped No. 19 LSU finish off its biggest comeback of the season and finally beat Kentucky.

The Tigers' 73-71 victory over the No. 5 Wildcats on Tuesday was their sixth win on the road this season. They've won three Southeastern Conference games in overtime, and their past three games have been decided by fewer than five points.

"To come on the road and beat a top five team like this in this type of environment is phenomenal for us," LSU coach Will Wade said. "We knew we had a good team and we wanted to prove it to ourselves in this type of environment. We were able to do that tonight."

This time it took a play at the buzzer for the Tigers to win their 13th game in the last 14 tries.

"We were obviously fortunate at the end," Wade said. "The ball goes off the rim and we make a play at the end. It was overall a good win."

With the game tied after Keldon Johnson made two free throws with 6 seconds left, Skylar Mays drove the length of the court. His shot missed but Bigby-Williams got the offensive rebound and scored to give the Tigers their first win over the Wildcats since 2009. It was just the sixth time ever that LSU (20-4, 10-1 SEC) has beaten Kentucky (20-4, 10-2).

A video replay showed potential goaltending by Bigby-Williams, but officials determined the basket was good before the buzzer and reviewed whether the basket was scored before time expired as opposed to potential offensive goaltending.

"I think the only thing that's reviewable is the clock," Wade said. "I don't think the actual play is reviewable. The play stands, but

I think the clock is what's reviewable. I didn't see (the replay) so I don't know."

Kentucky coach John Calipari was disappointed in the call and said it was comparable to a shot clock violation that wasn't called against Wisconsin in a 71-64 loss to Badgers in the 2015 Final Four.

"They said it was not reviewable and then they changed the rule to say, why would you want to lose a game on a shot clock violation and it's easy to go check?" he said. "Well, this one's easy to go check, too. Just go check it. Why would you not — why would that not be reviewable? So we're like Wilt Chamberlain — we change rules. I don't know."

LSU outscored Kentucky 41-31 in the second half to overcome a nine-point deficit.

The Wildcats had a 10-game winning streak snapped and got caught looking ahead going into Saturday's showdown against top-ranked Tennessee.

Tremont Waters led the Tigers with 15 points, followed by Naz Reid and Emmitt Williams with 12 each, while Mays chipped in with 11 each.

PJ Washington led Kentucky with 20 points, followed by Keldon Johnson with 16 and Tyler Herro with 12.

## Big picture

**Kentucky:** The Wildcats fell to 4-2 against ranked teams this season. Kentucky hosts top-ranked Tennessee Saturday in the first of two games between the ranked foes. They meet again on March 2 in a game that could determine the SEC regular-season champion.

**LSU:** The Tigers remain in contention to receive one of four bays in the SEC Tournament. LSU is a game ahead of Kentucky in the SEC standings. LSU has a favorable schedule and hosts league leader Tennessee on Feb. 23 in Baton Rouge.



JAMES CRISP/AP

LSU's Kavell Bigby-Williams celebrates after tipping in the game-winning shot against Kentucky on Tuesday in Lexington, Ky.



## SPORTS



Digging deep

Duke rallies from 23 down to top  
No. 16 Louisville » Page 31

NFL

## Special effect

With elite young athletes being forced to choose single sport, a repeat of Kyler Murray's feat seems unlikely

By CLIFF BRUNT  
Associated Press

**K**yler Murray has chosen football over baseball, at least for now. It is anyone's guess when the world will see another athlete with the skills and opportunity to have such a choice.

The Oakland Athletics selected Murray ninth overall in the Major League Baseball draft last June. He then went out and won the Heisman Trophy in his only year as Oklahoma's starting quarterback, declared for the NFL Draft last month and picked the NFL over MLB on Monday.

Few athletes have positioned themselves to have

such dynamic options. And in this age of youth sports specialization, it could become rarer still.

Deion Sanders played pro football and baseball, and "Prime Time" has a special place in his heart for athletes who excel at a high level in both sports. He wishes more young men had the same opportunities as Murray, but laments that youth sports coaches often encourage kids to pick one main sport at an early age.

"You've got some idiot in a youth league telling a kid, 'If you just focus on this one thing, you're going to be great,'" Sanders said. "Then, you've got the same [kind of] idiot in high school — 'You're not going to play this other sport because I'm not going to let you start until you dedicate yourself.'"

Sports specialization has drawn a lot of attention in recent years, with baseball greats such as John Smoltz suggesting it can hurt young players simply because of the wear and tear. Still, many believe it has its place.

After all, most athletes don't have the gifts of Murray, Sanders or Bo Jackson, the 1986 Heisman winner for Auburn who was an All-Star for the Kansas City Royals in 1989 and made the Pro Bowl for the Los Angeles Raiders in 1990. Tom Westerberg, Murray's football coach at Allen (Texas) High School who now coaches at Barbers Hill (Texas) High, said even the really good ones often are best served honing their skills in one sport.

SEE EFFECT ON PAGE 30

LUIS SINCO  
LOS ANGELES TIMES  
TNS



The Athletics selected Kyler Murray with the ninth overall pick in the amateur draft last year, but the Heisman Trophy winner said he will pursue a future in the NFL instead. In the era of sports specialization, it seems increasingly less likely there will be another two-sport pro star.

Source: Ravens to trade Flacco to Broncos » Page 30

